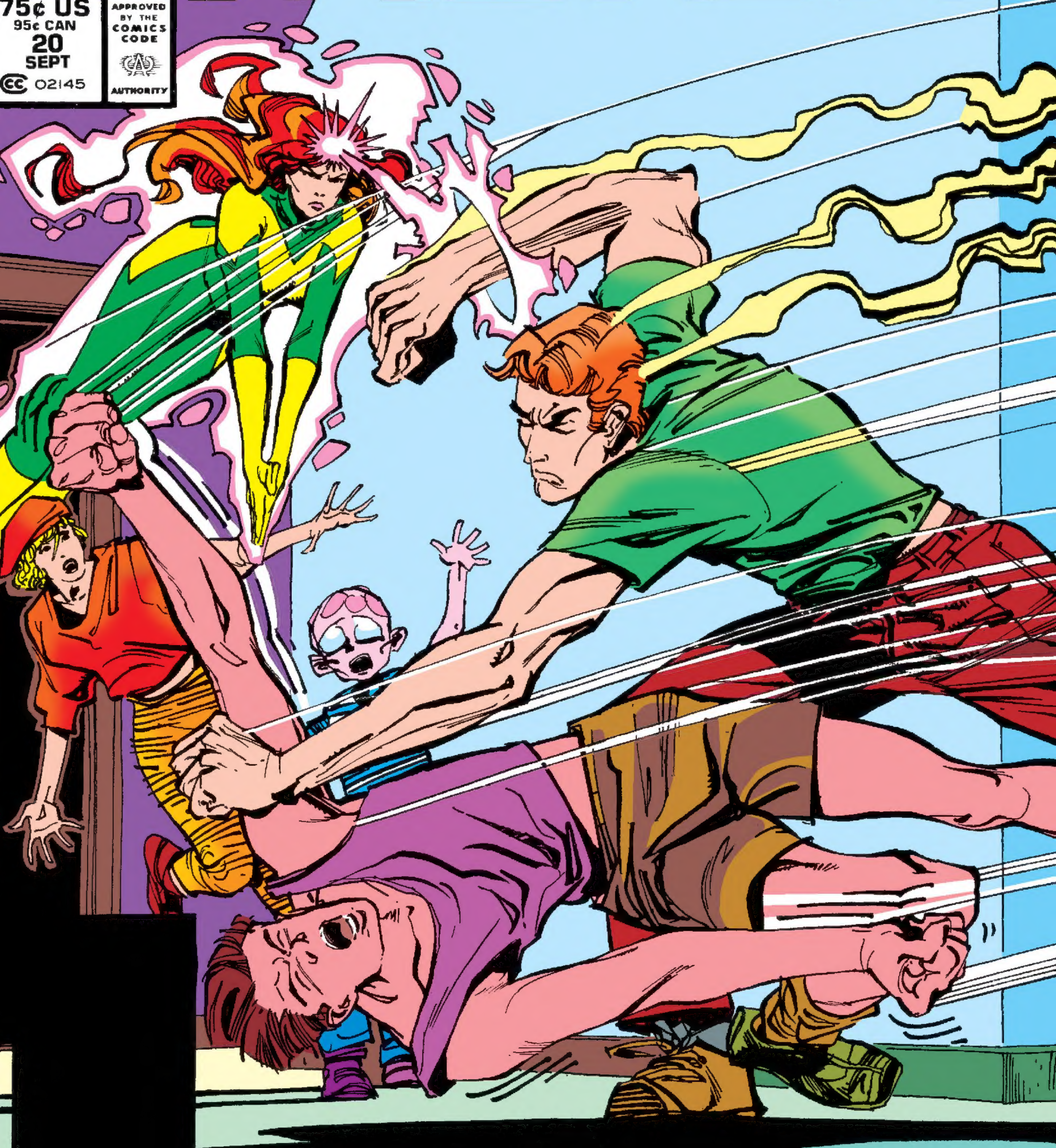


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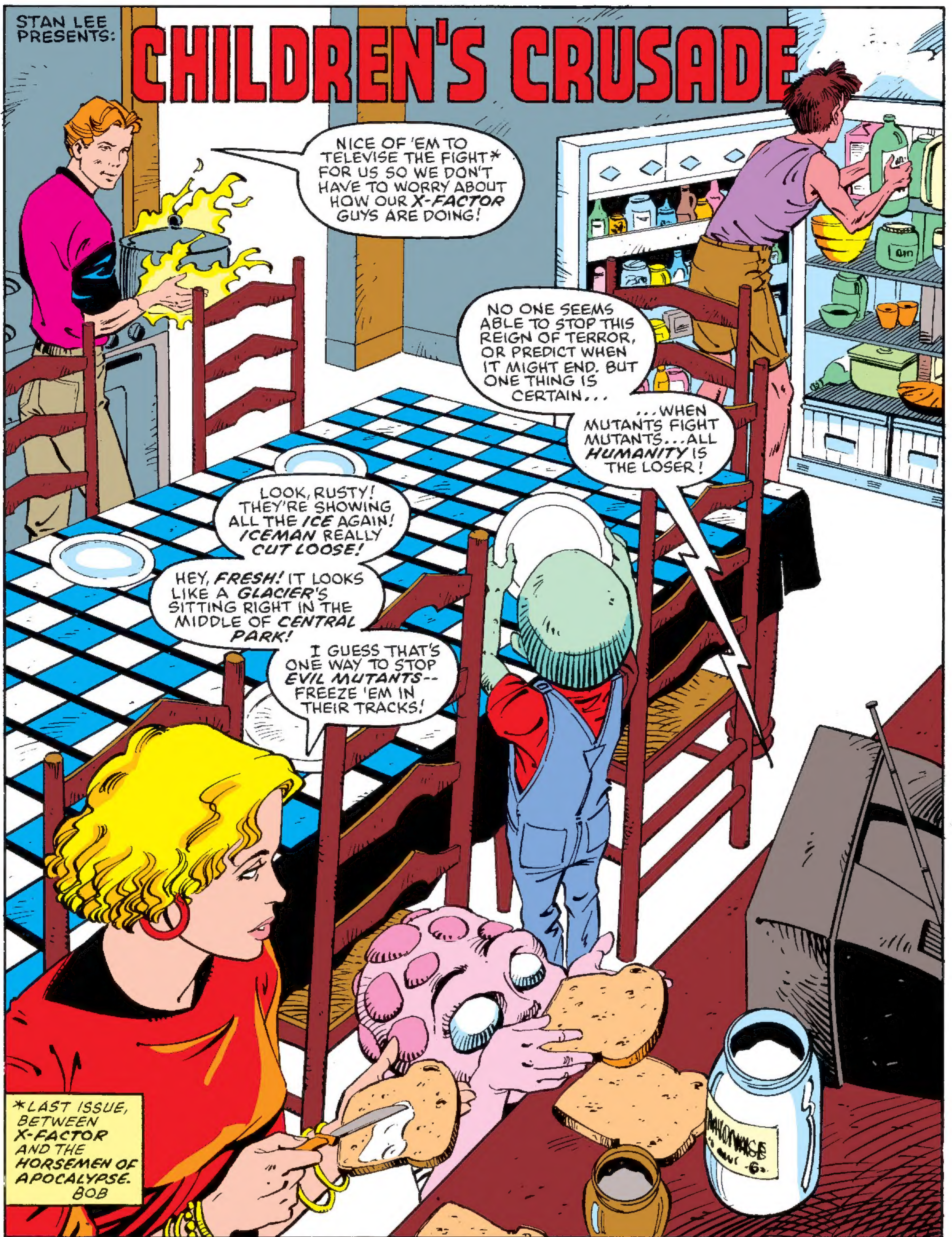
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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR™

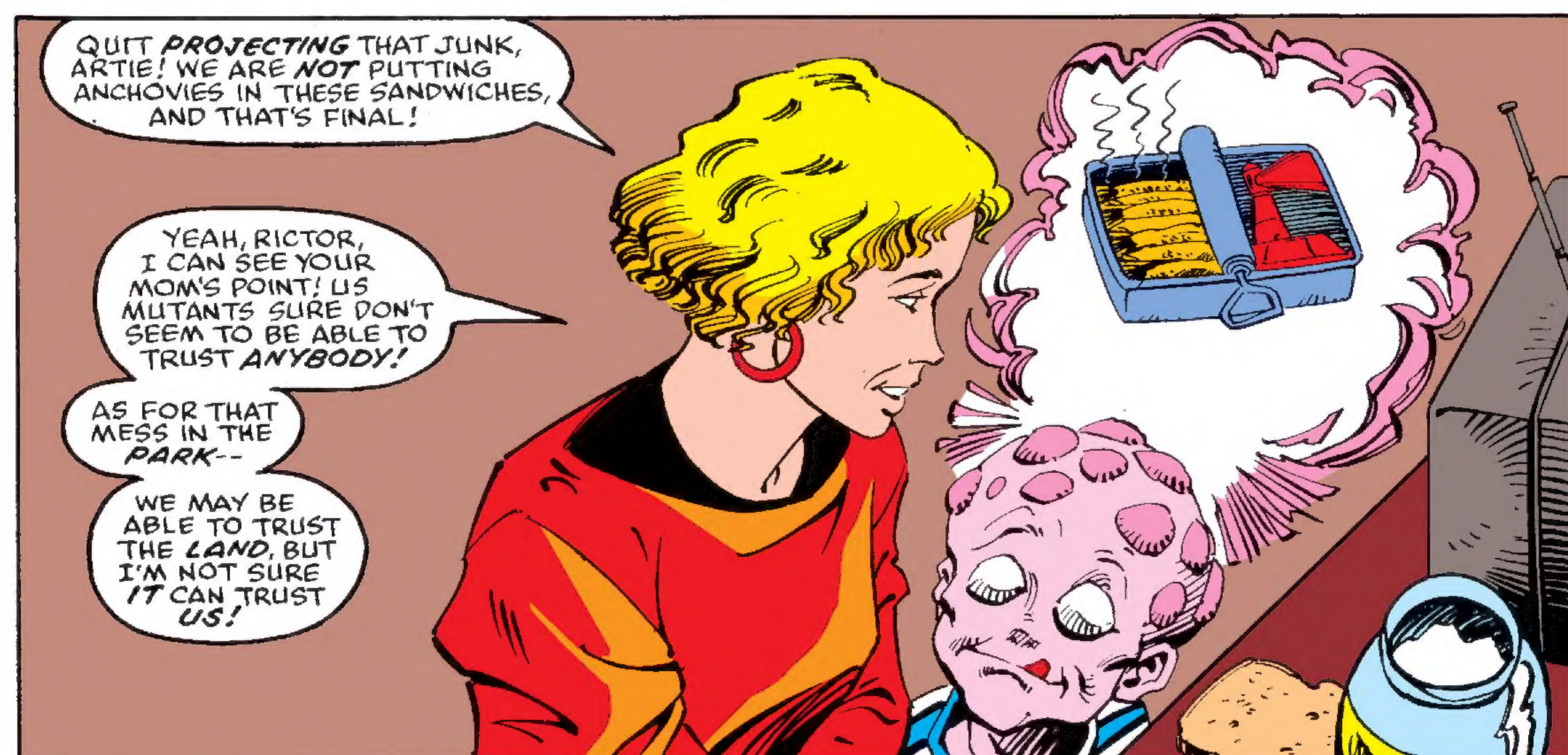
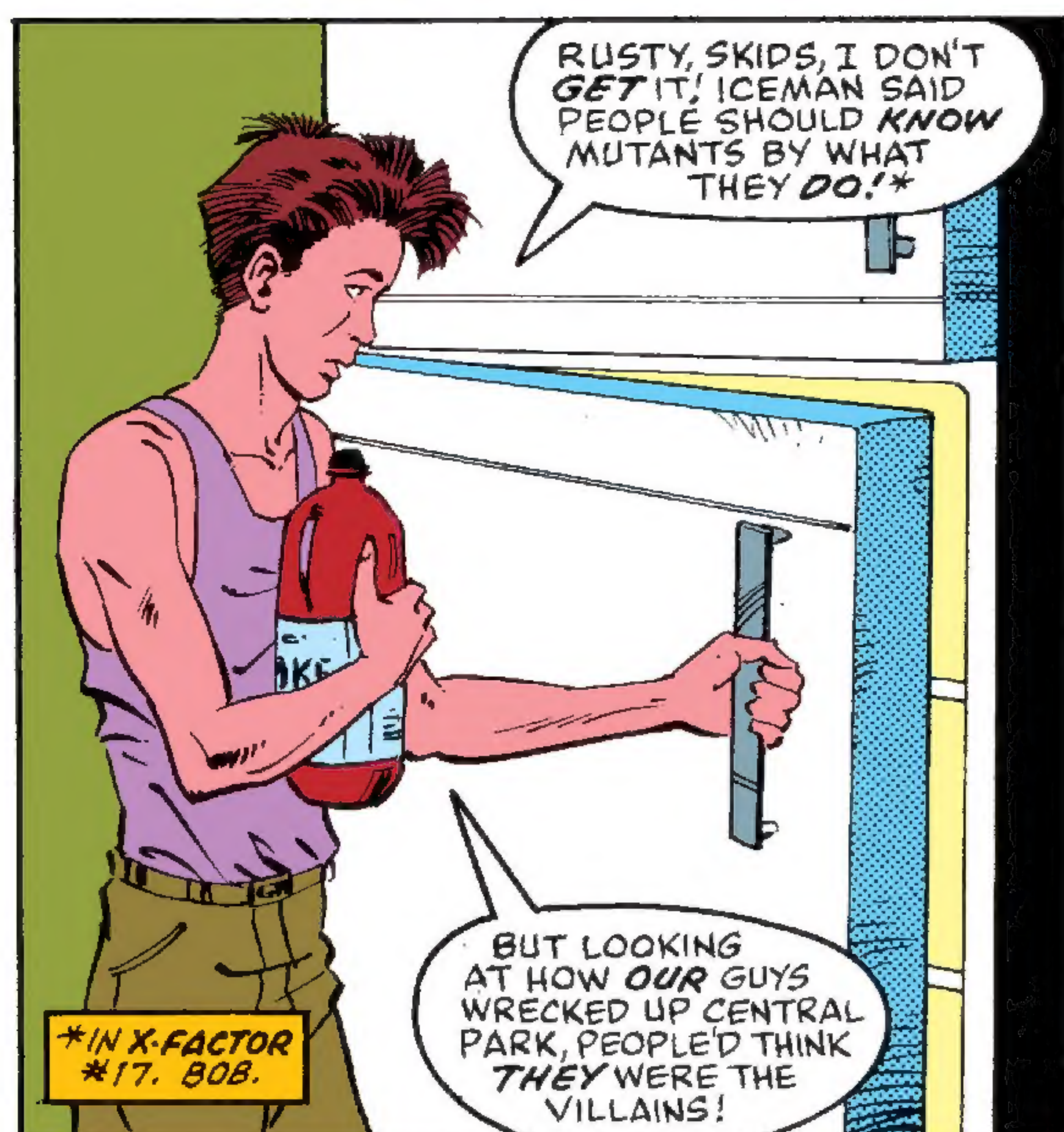
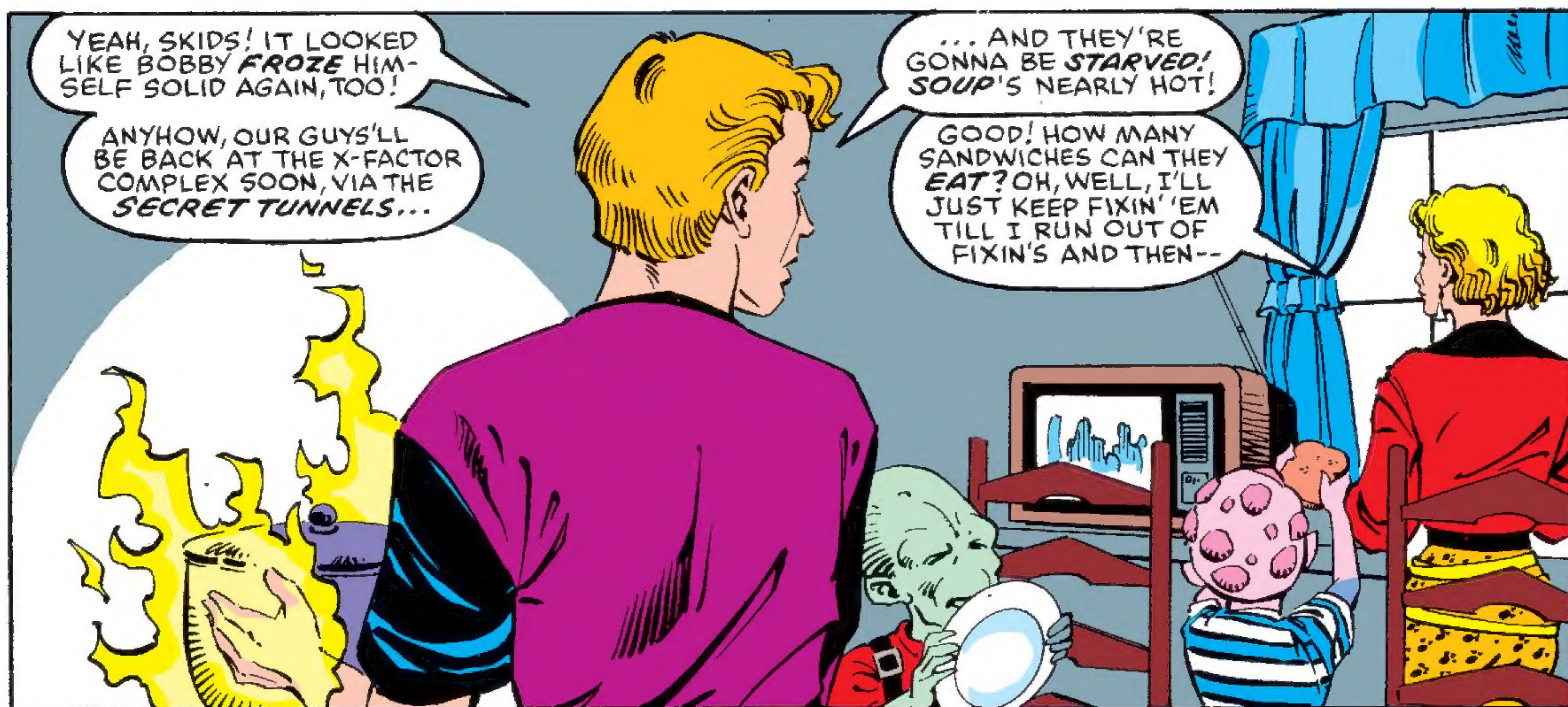


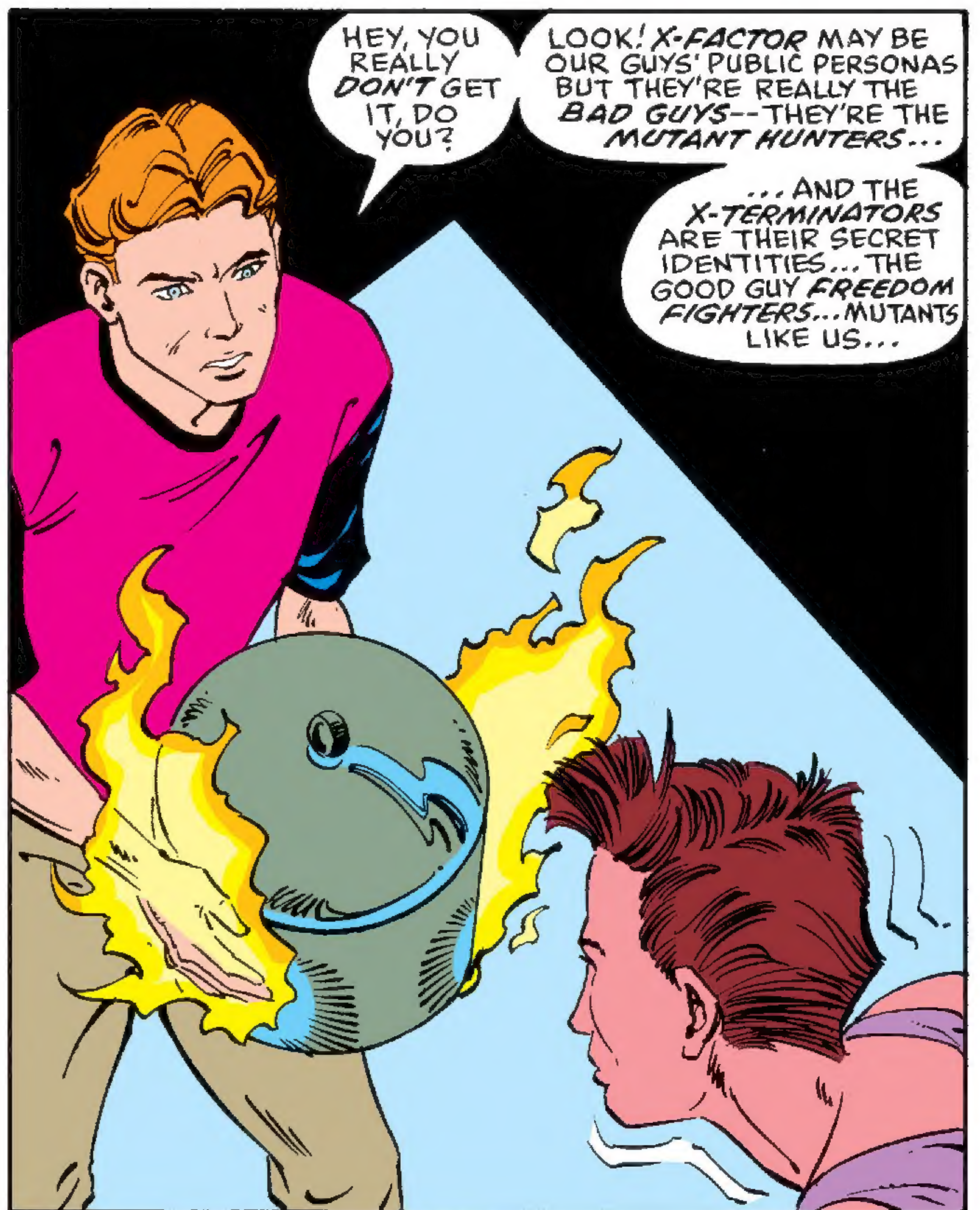
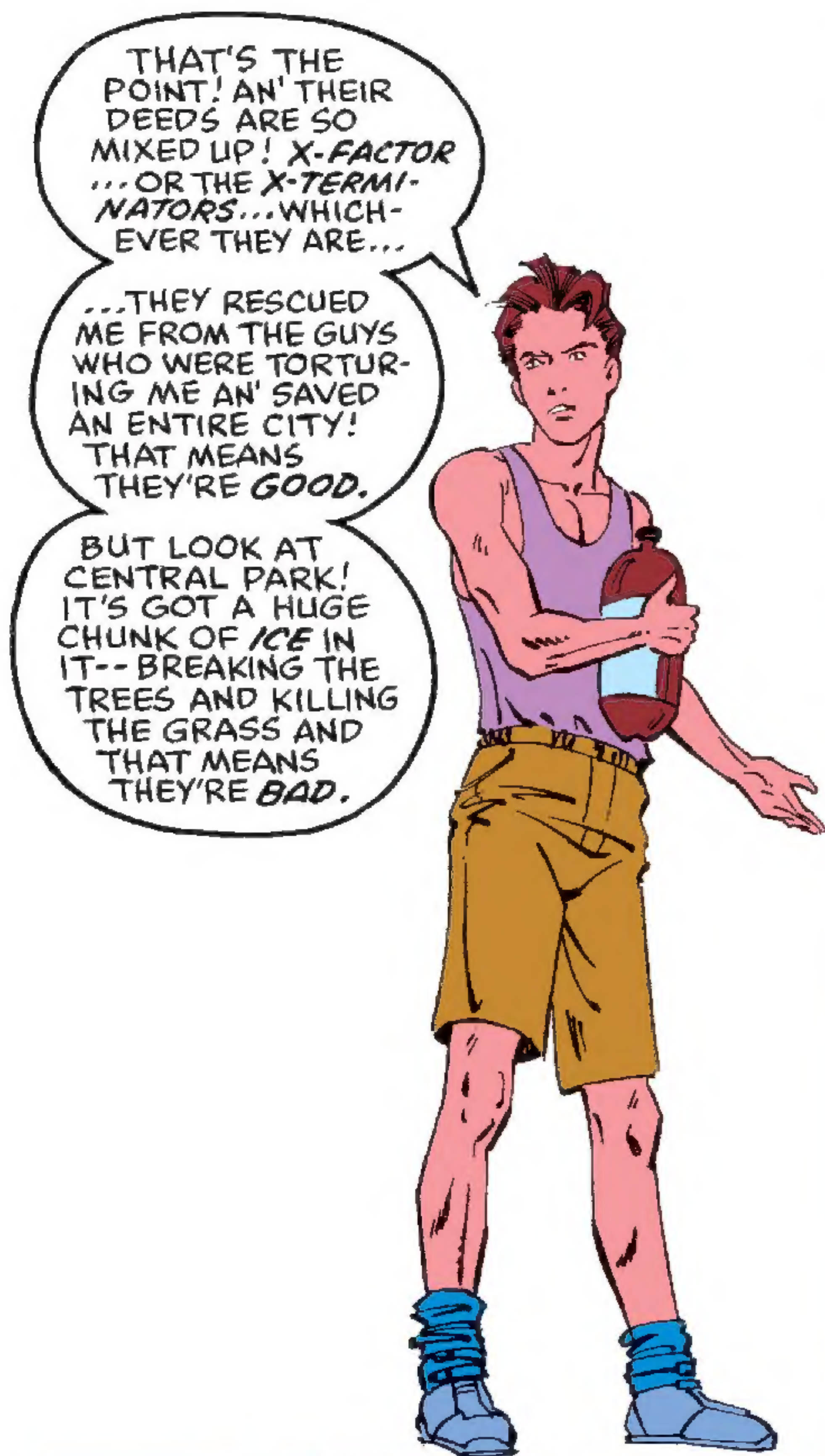
STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

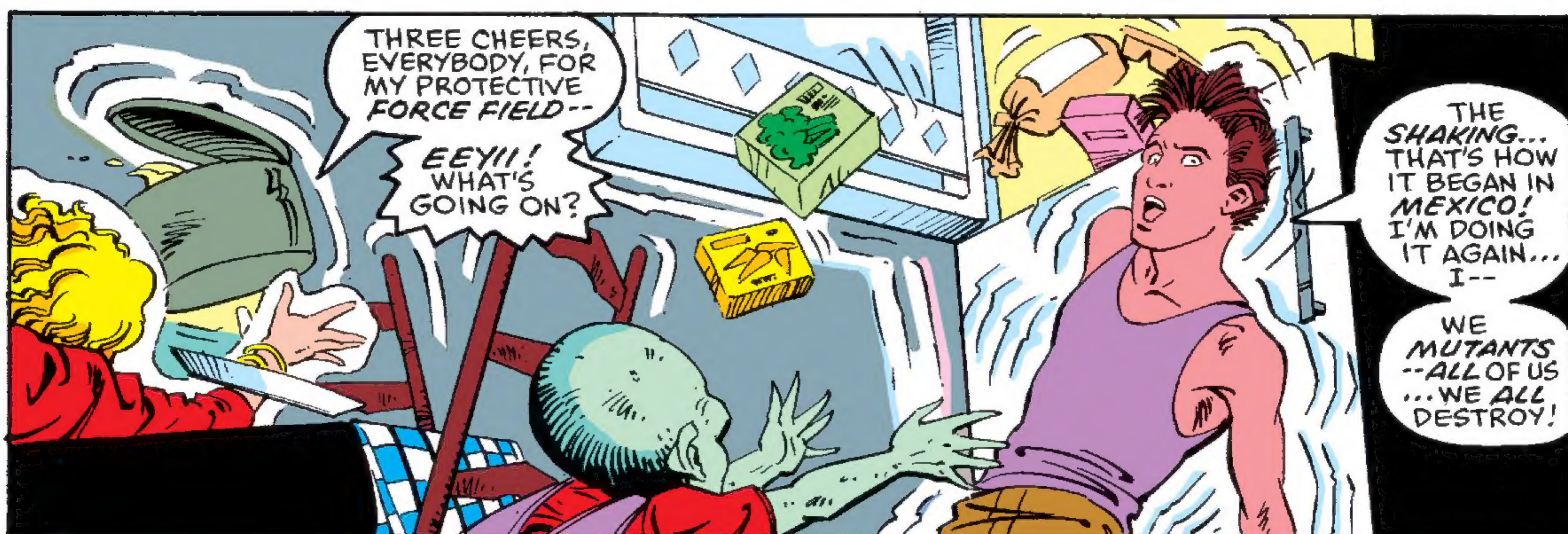
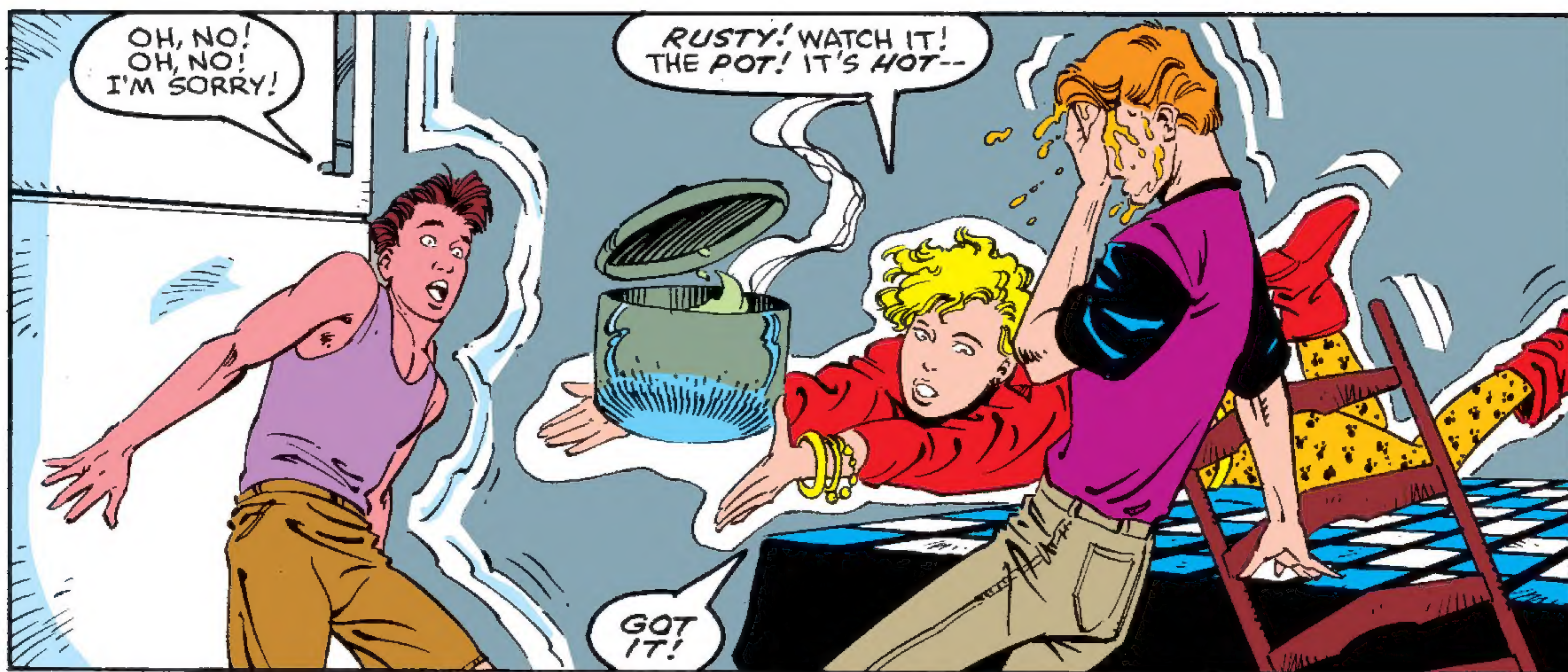
CHILDREN'S CRUSADE



LOUISE SIMONSON / JUNE BRIGMAN / RANDY EMBERLIN / JOE ROSEN / PETRA SCOTESI / BOB HARRAS / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER / GUEST PENCILER / GUEST INKER / LETTERER / COLORIST / EDITOR / EDITOR IN CHIEF







A MAZE OF TUNNELS HONEY-COMBS THE LAND BENEATH NEW YORK CITY.

A MUTANT HAS ONLY TO ENTER THIS MAZE TO TRAVEL VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA-- SECRETLY...

X-FACTOR... THERE!

I SEE 'EM, LEECH!

SCOTT! JEAN! THEY TELEVIEWED THE FIGHT! IT WAS WILD!

WHAT'S WITH THE BEAST?

KEEP BACK, KIDS! THE HORSEMAN PESTILENCE TOUCHED HIM!

WHATEVER SHE ZAPPED HIM WITH MIGHT BE CONTAGIOUS! WE'RE TAKING HANK TO THE INFIRMARY!

GET ICEMAN THAWED OUT... IF YOU CAN!

BOBBY REALLY DID IT TO HIMSELF THIS TIME!

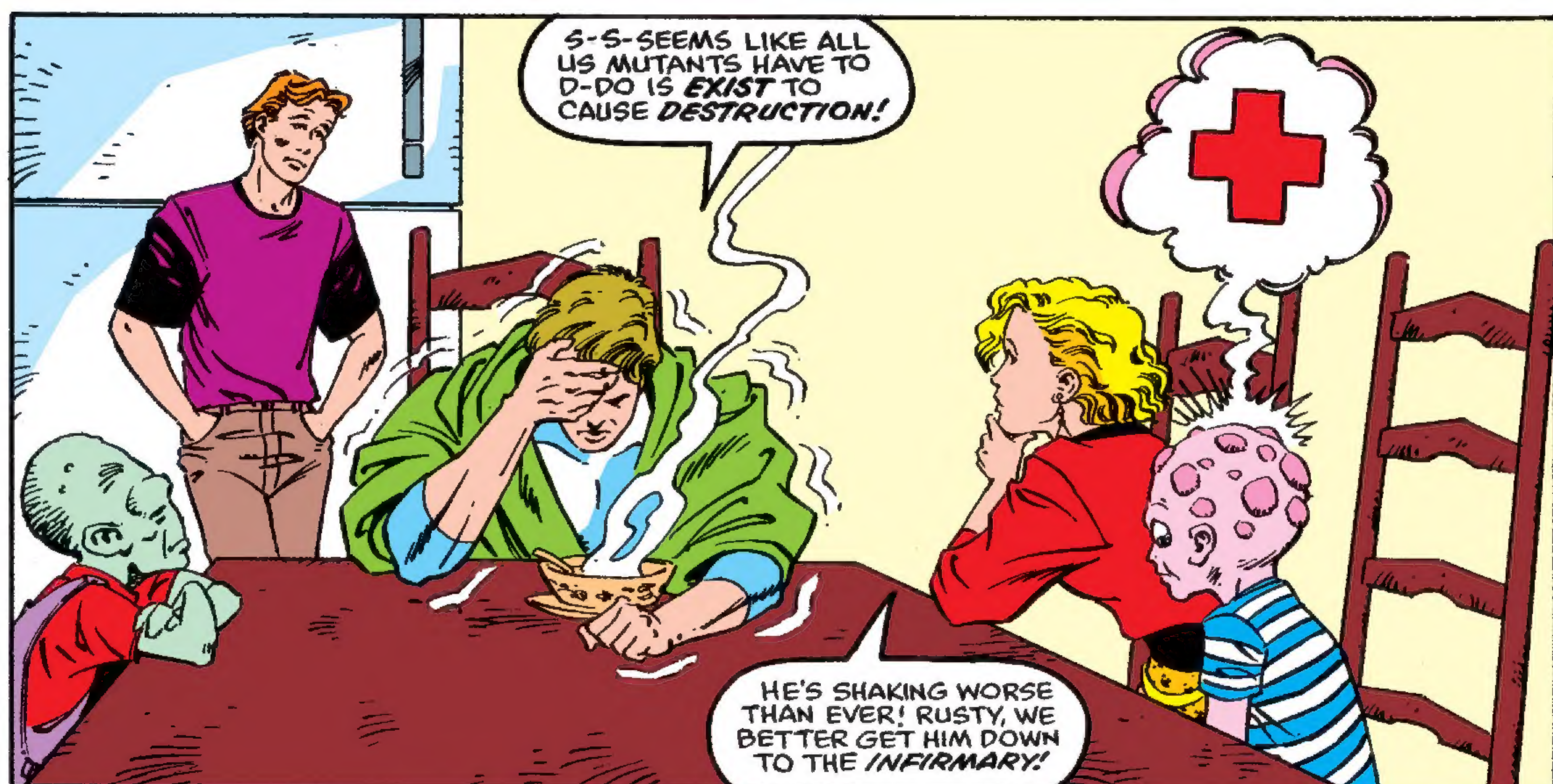
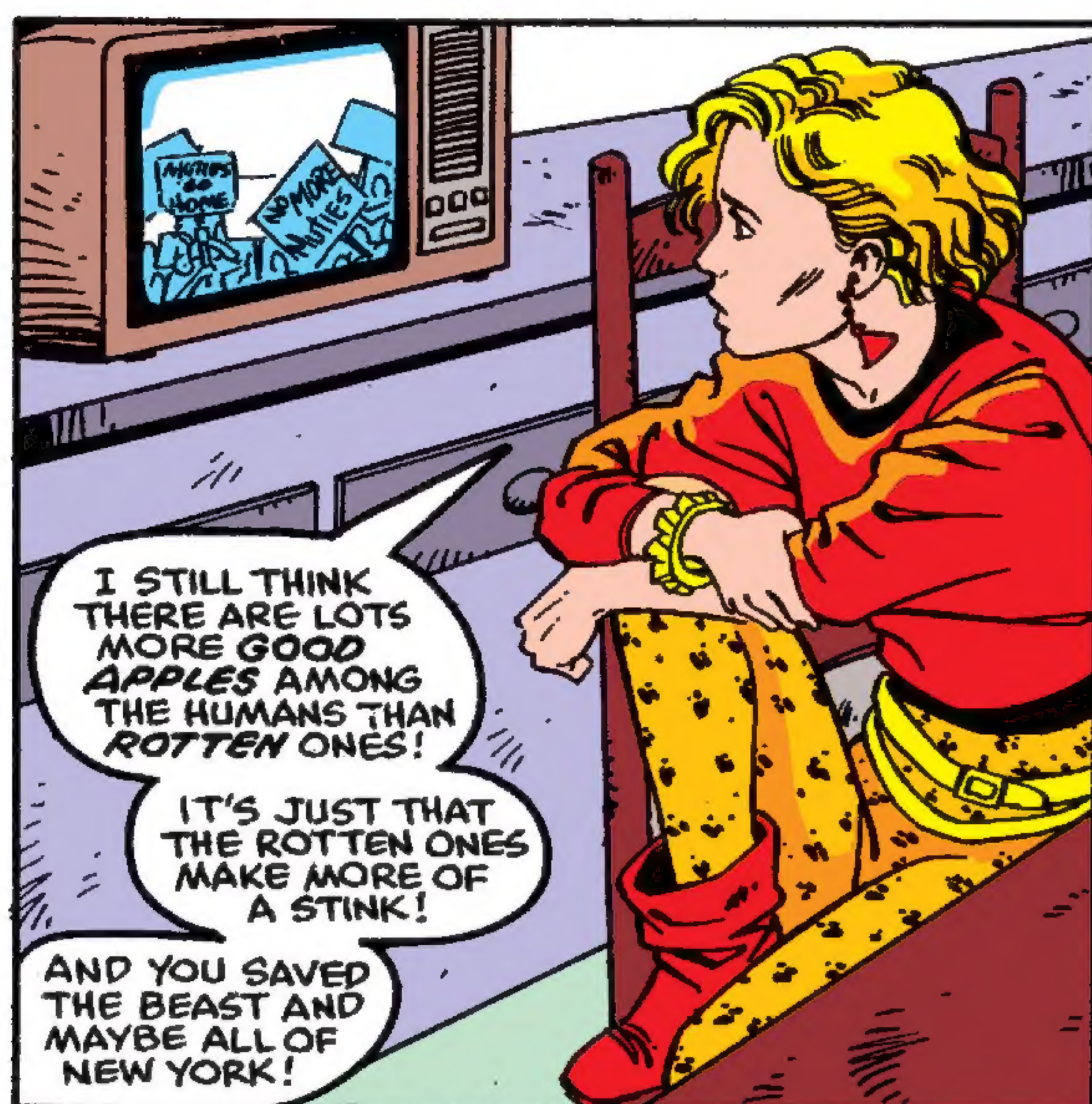
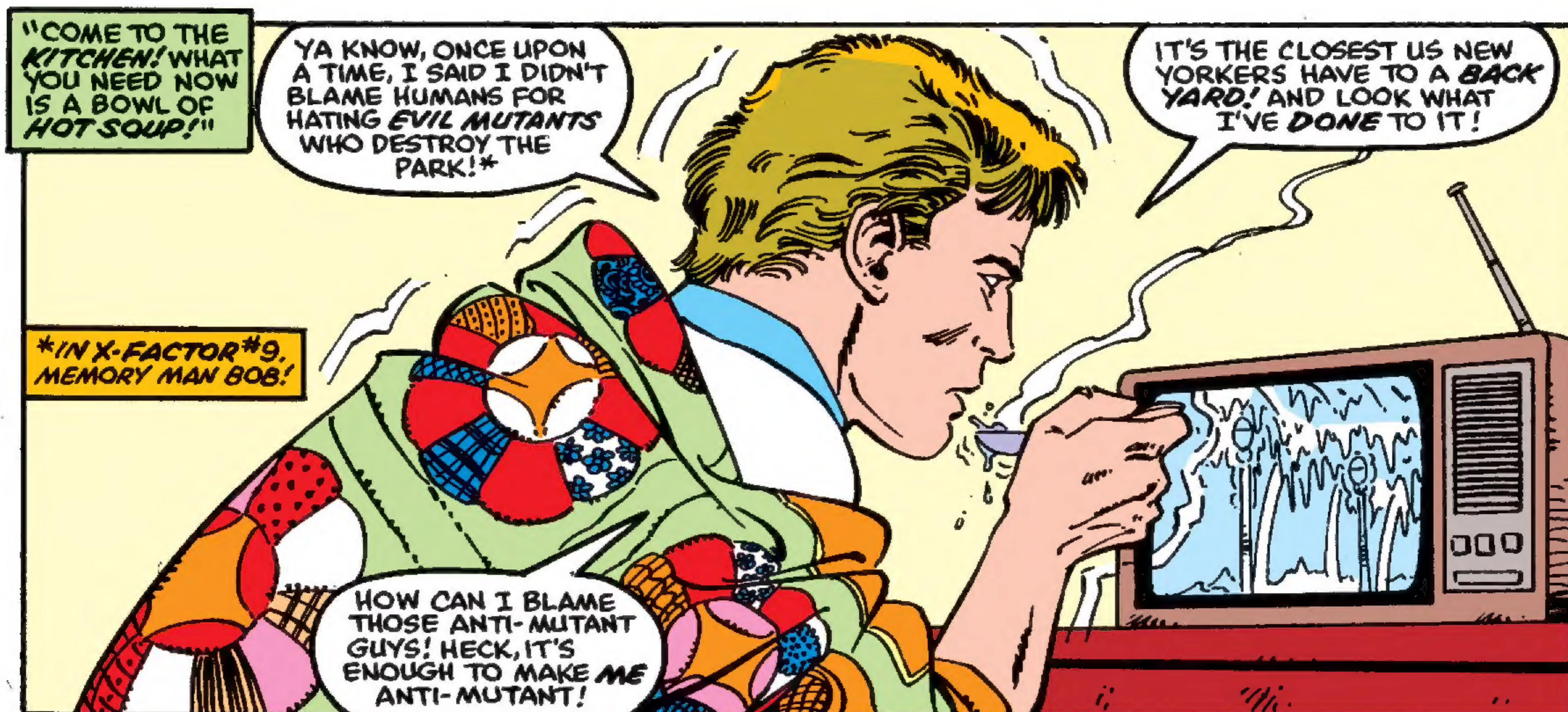
HIS POWER BEING OUT OF CONTROL IS THE PITS! I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE DID TO THE PARK!

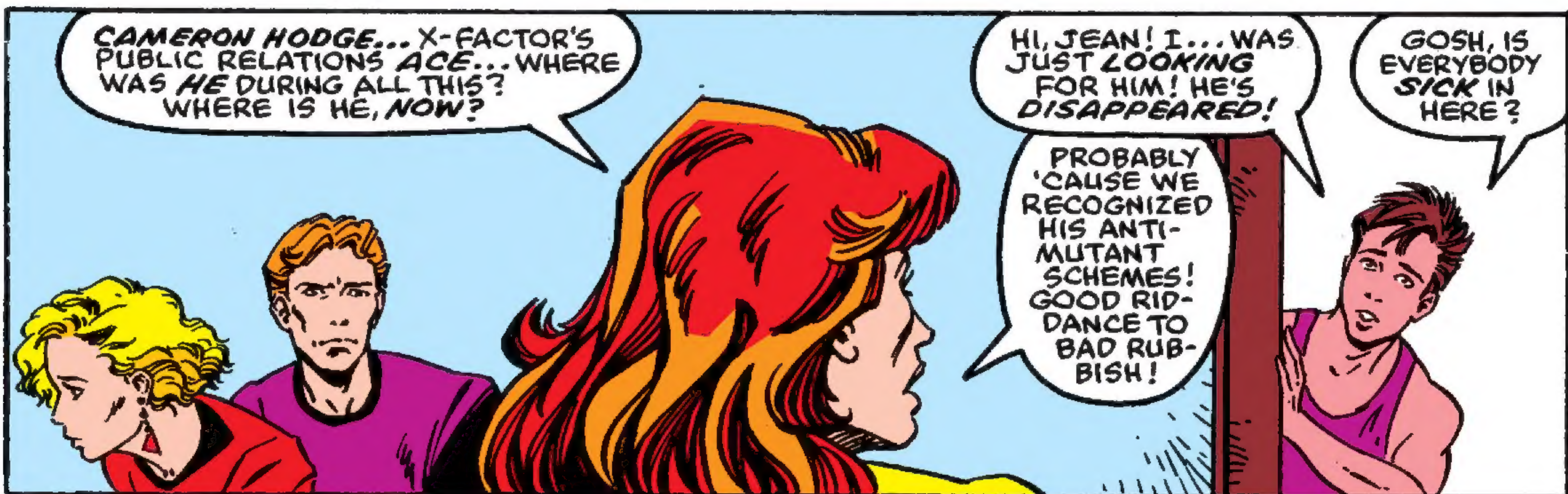
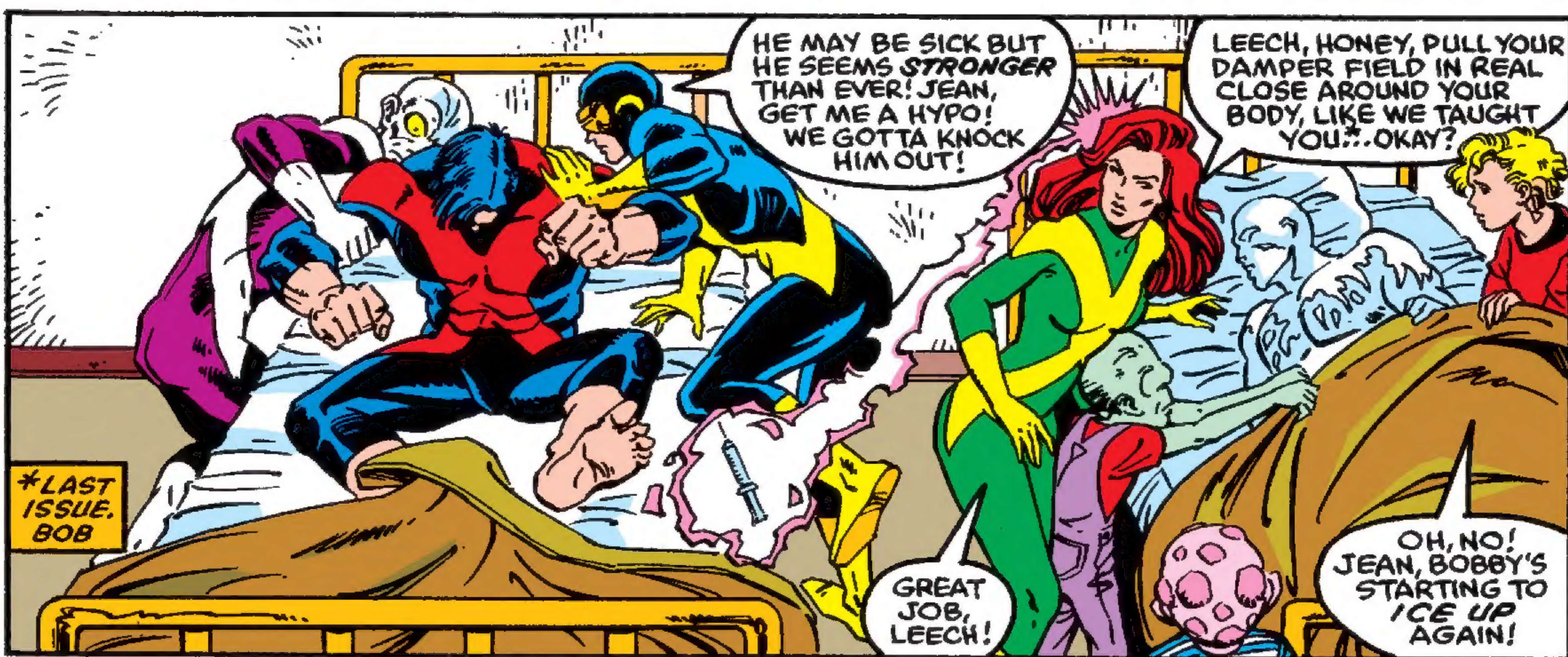
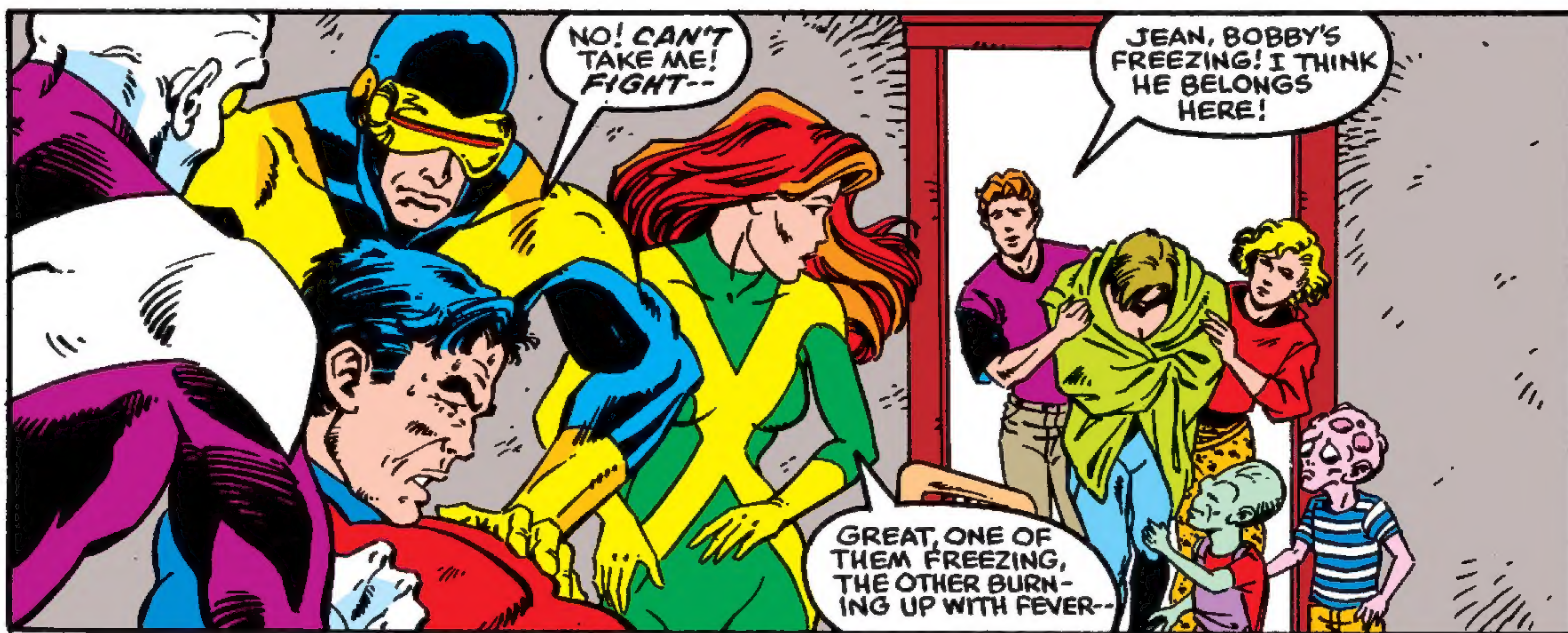
P-P-PARK? L-L-LAST THING I REMEMBER... WORRIED 'BOUT P-P-PESTILENCE RELEASING PLAGUE.

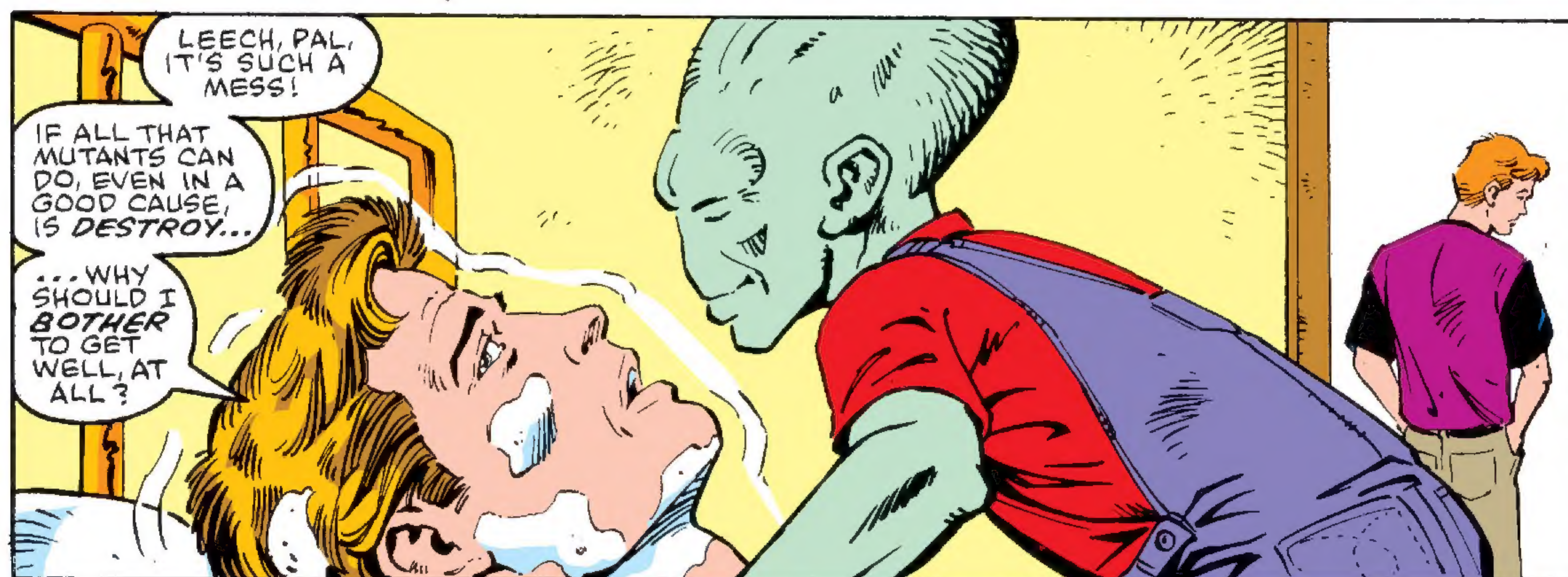
HAD TO S-STOP HER... T-TRIED TO FREEZE HORSE-MEN, THEN... N-N-NOTHING!

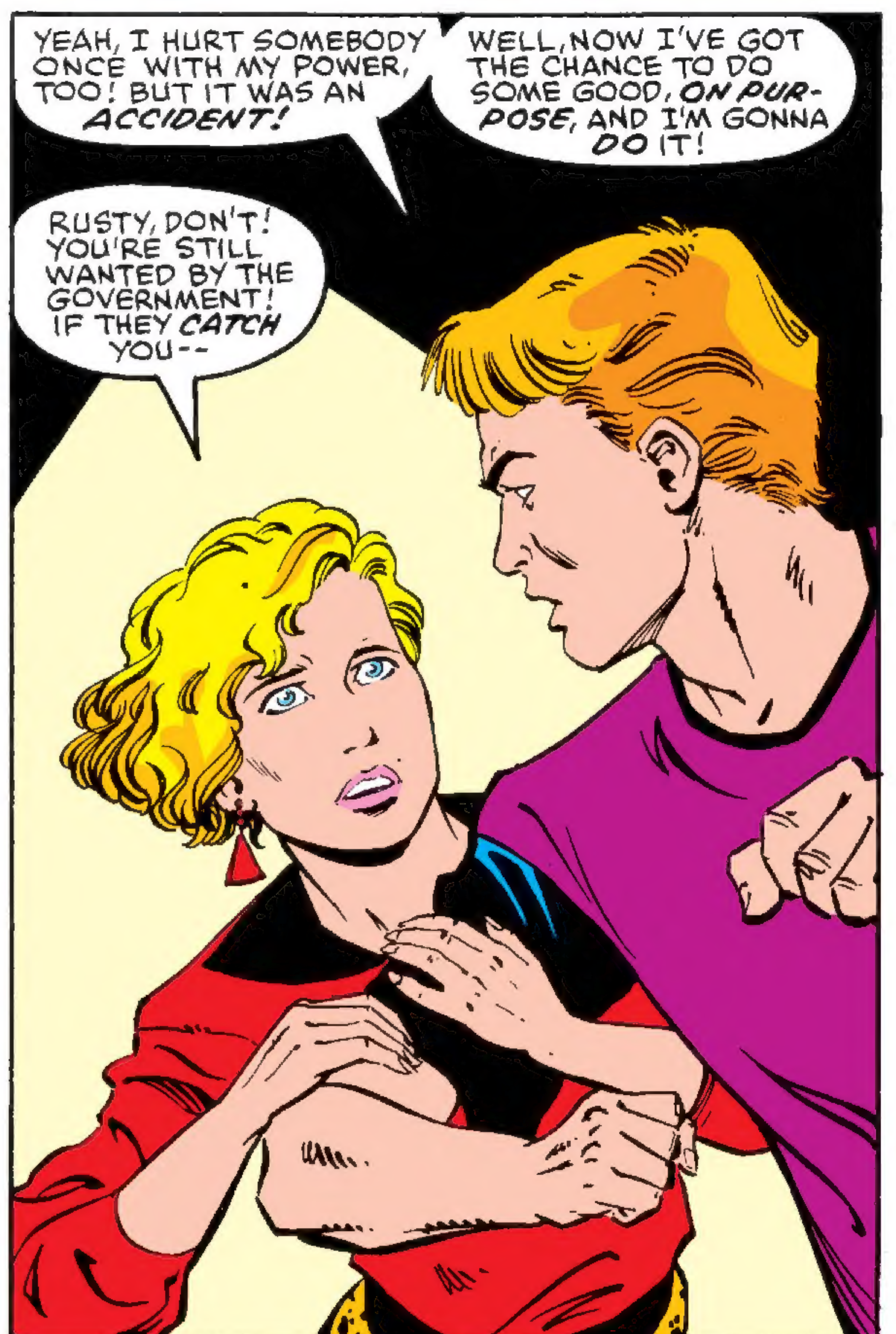
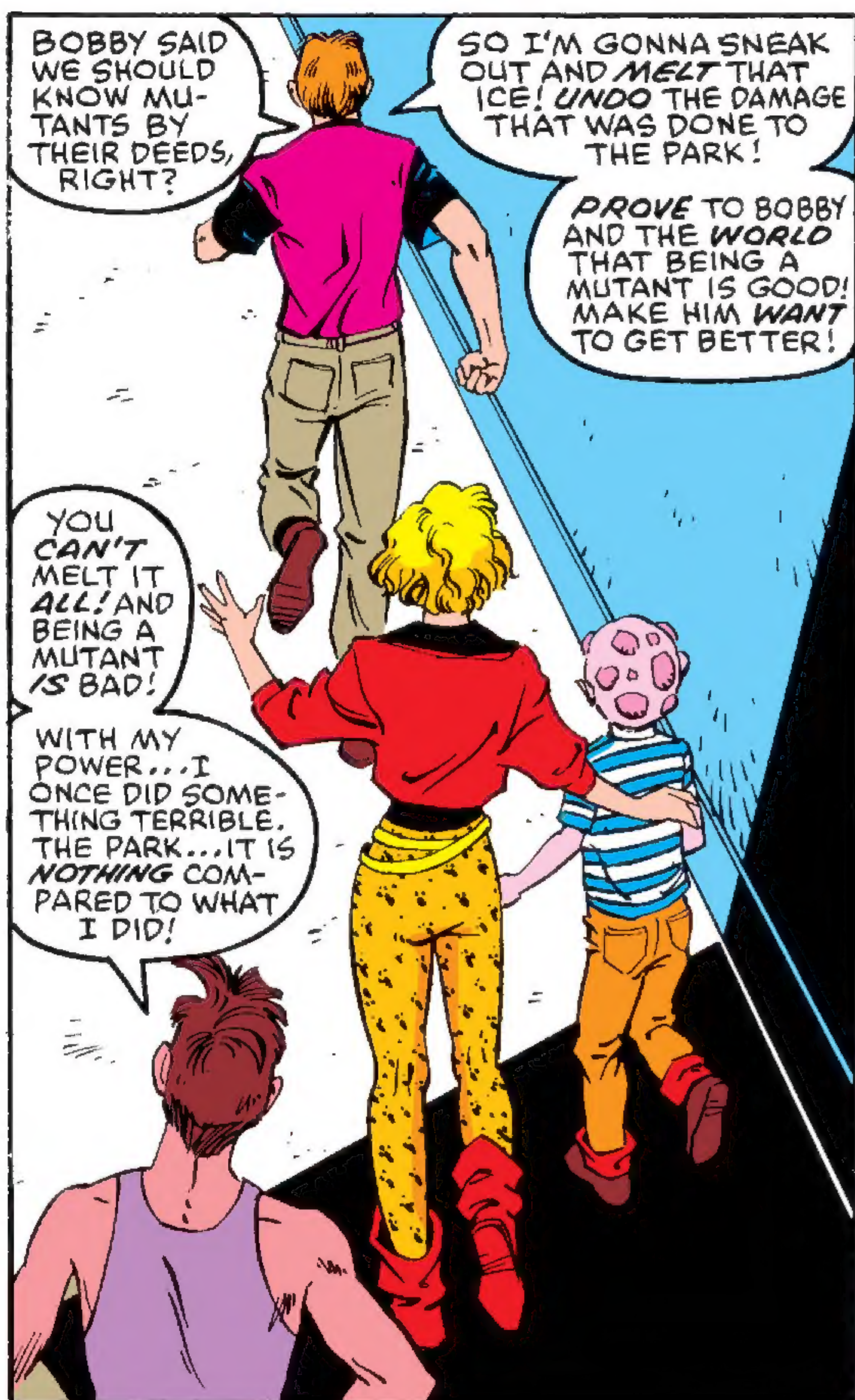
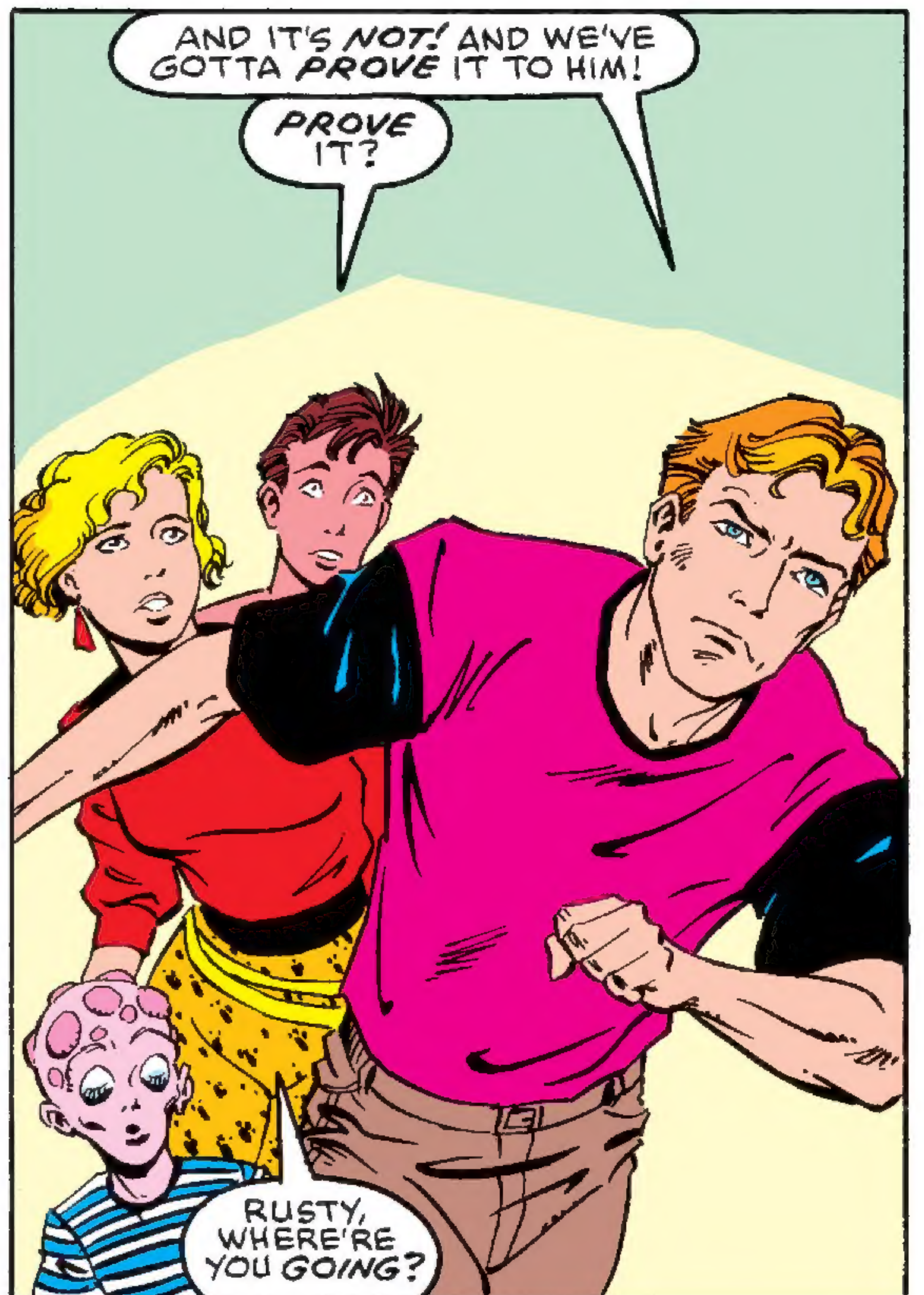
YEAH, ARTIE! I KNOW HE'S FREEZ-ING!

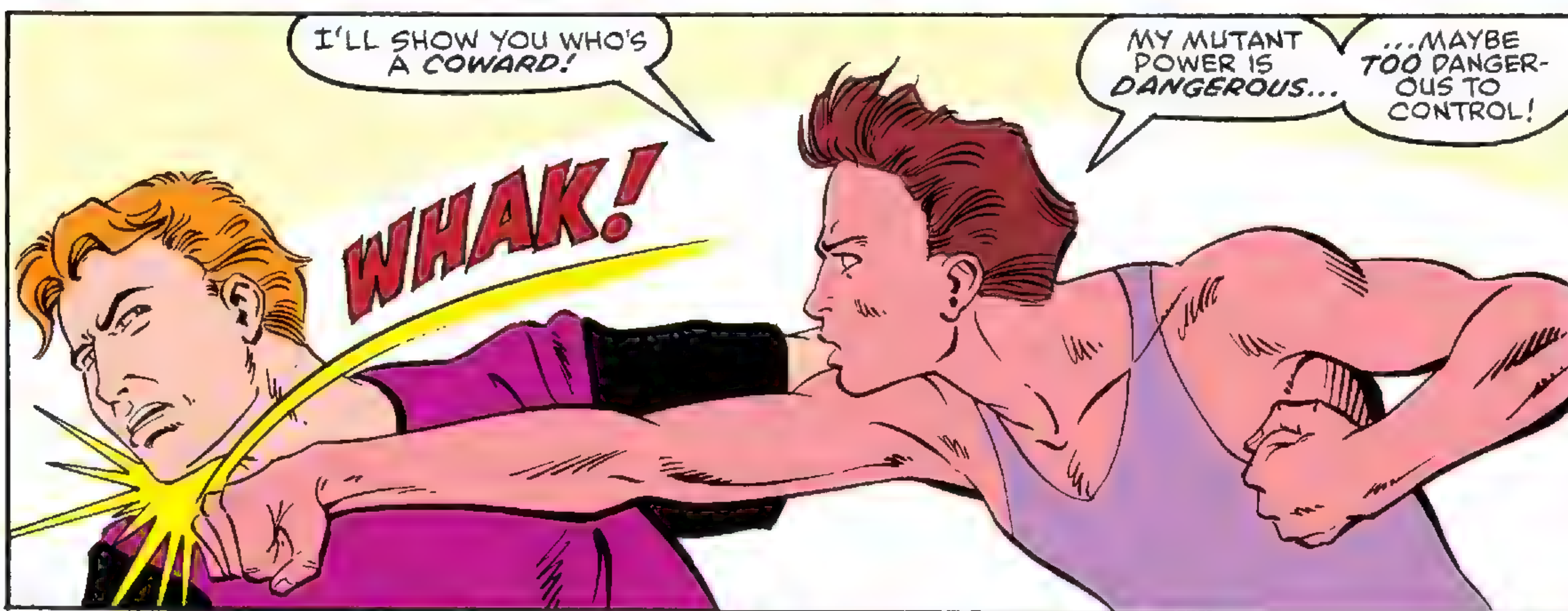
YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT HAPPENED, BOBBY! THEY KEEP SHOWING IT ON TV... LIKE IT'S ENTERTAINMENT!



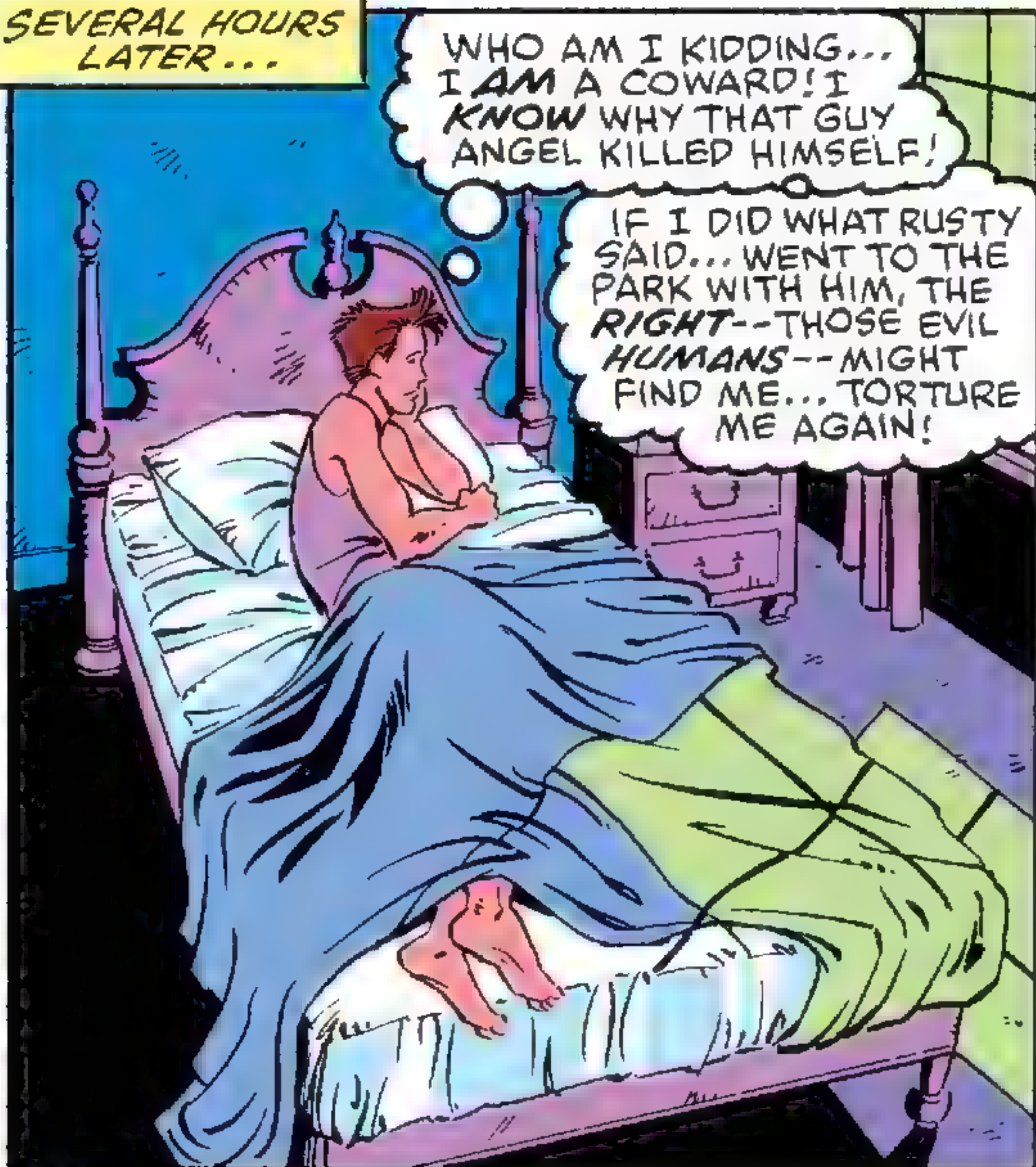




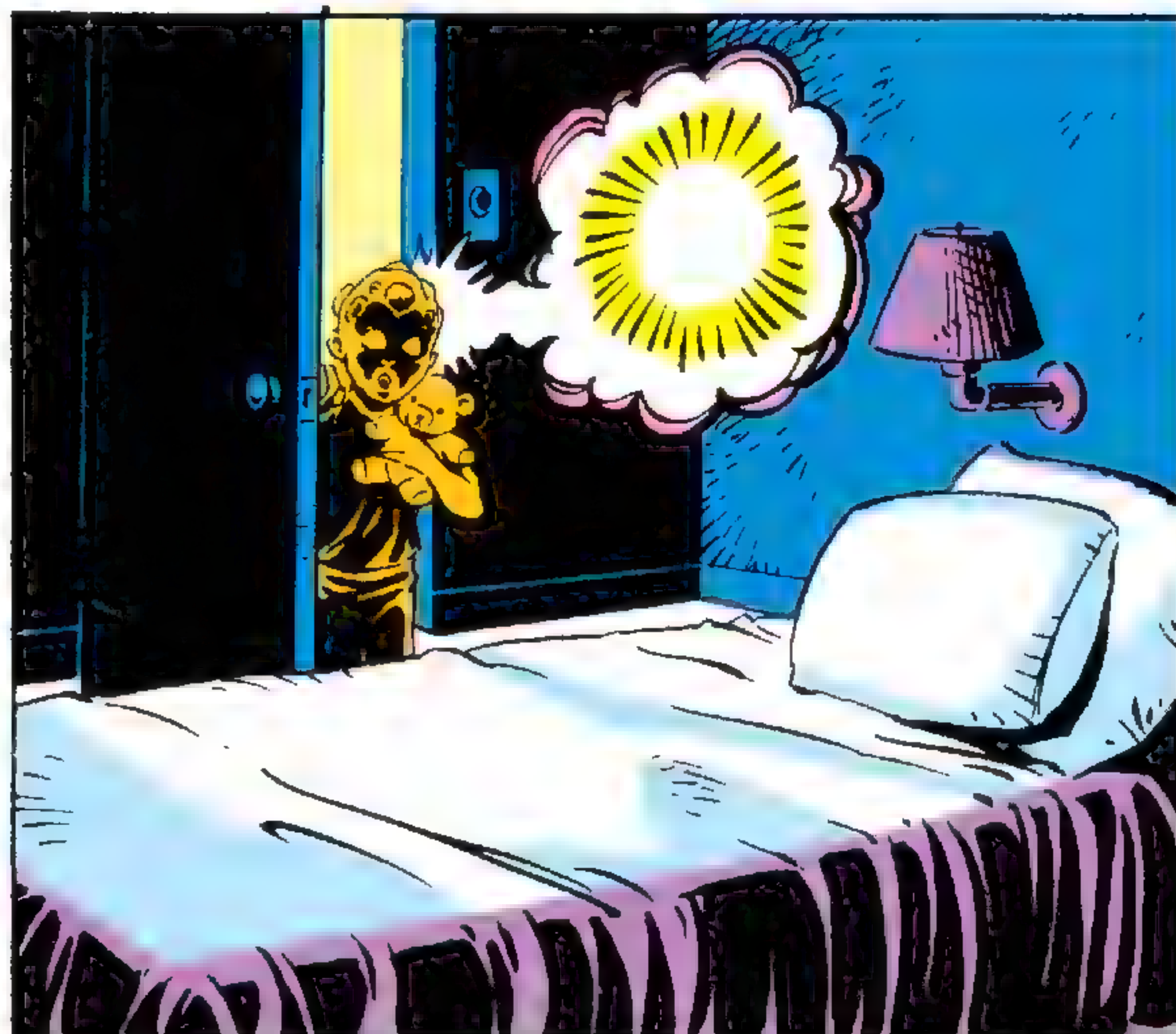
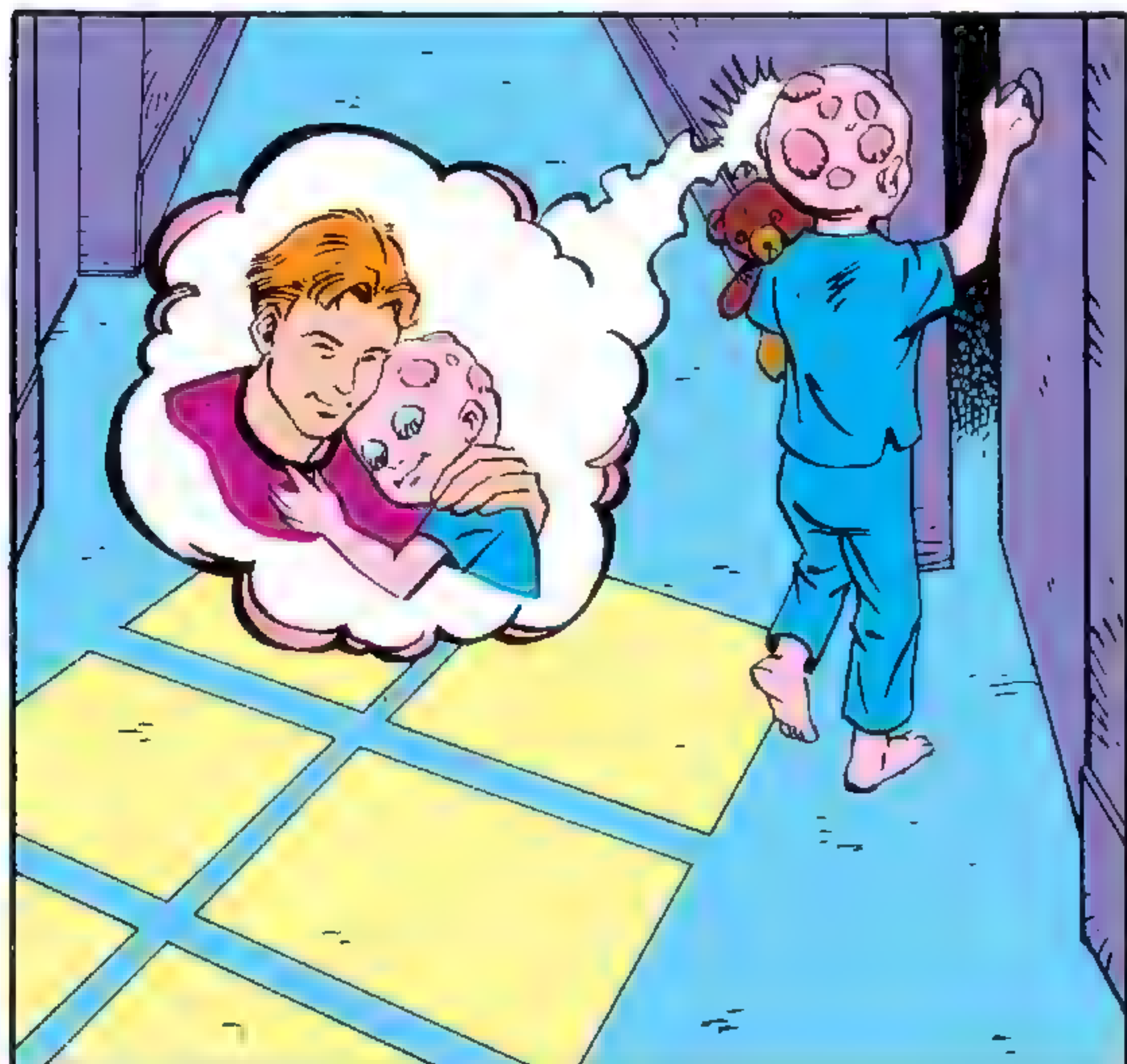
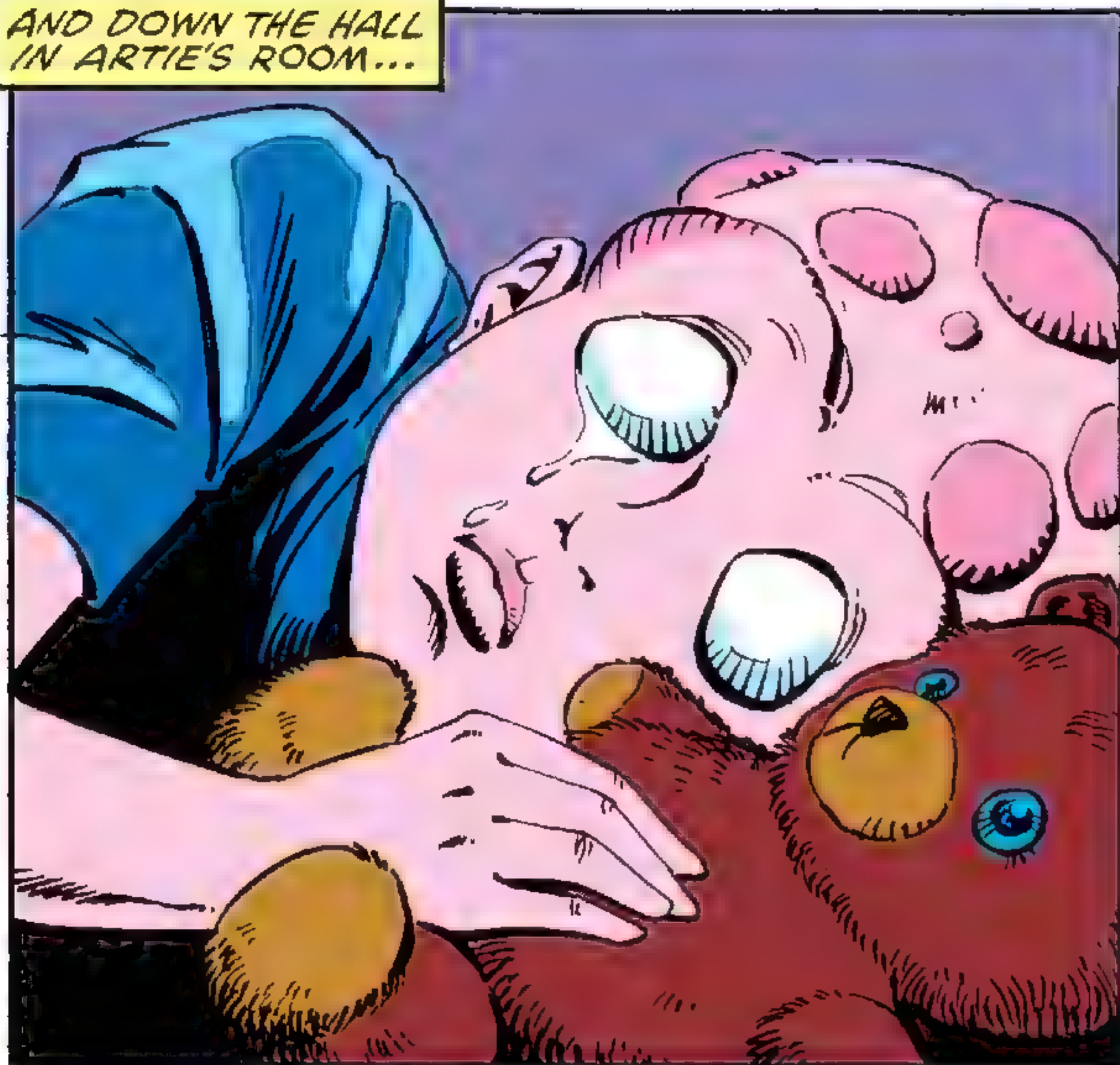




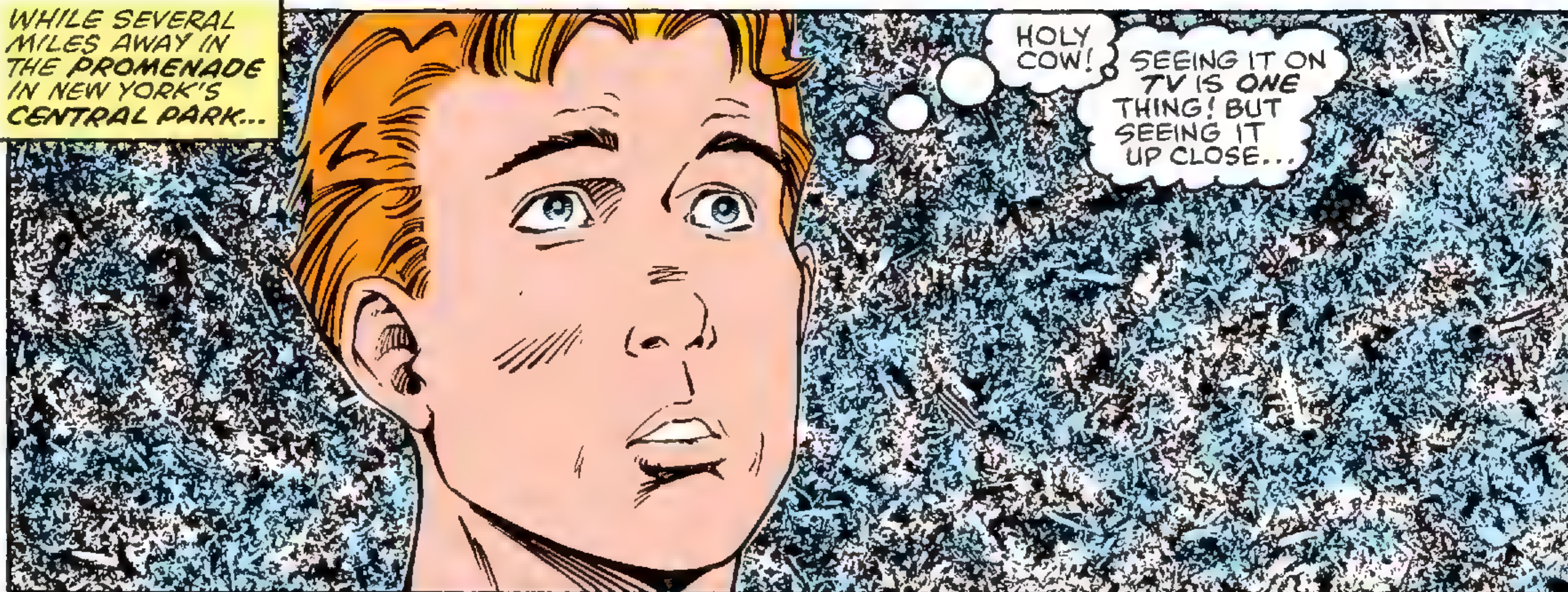
SEVERAL HOURS
LATER...



AND DOWN THE HALL
IN ARTIE'S ROOM...

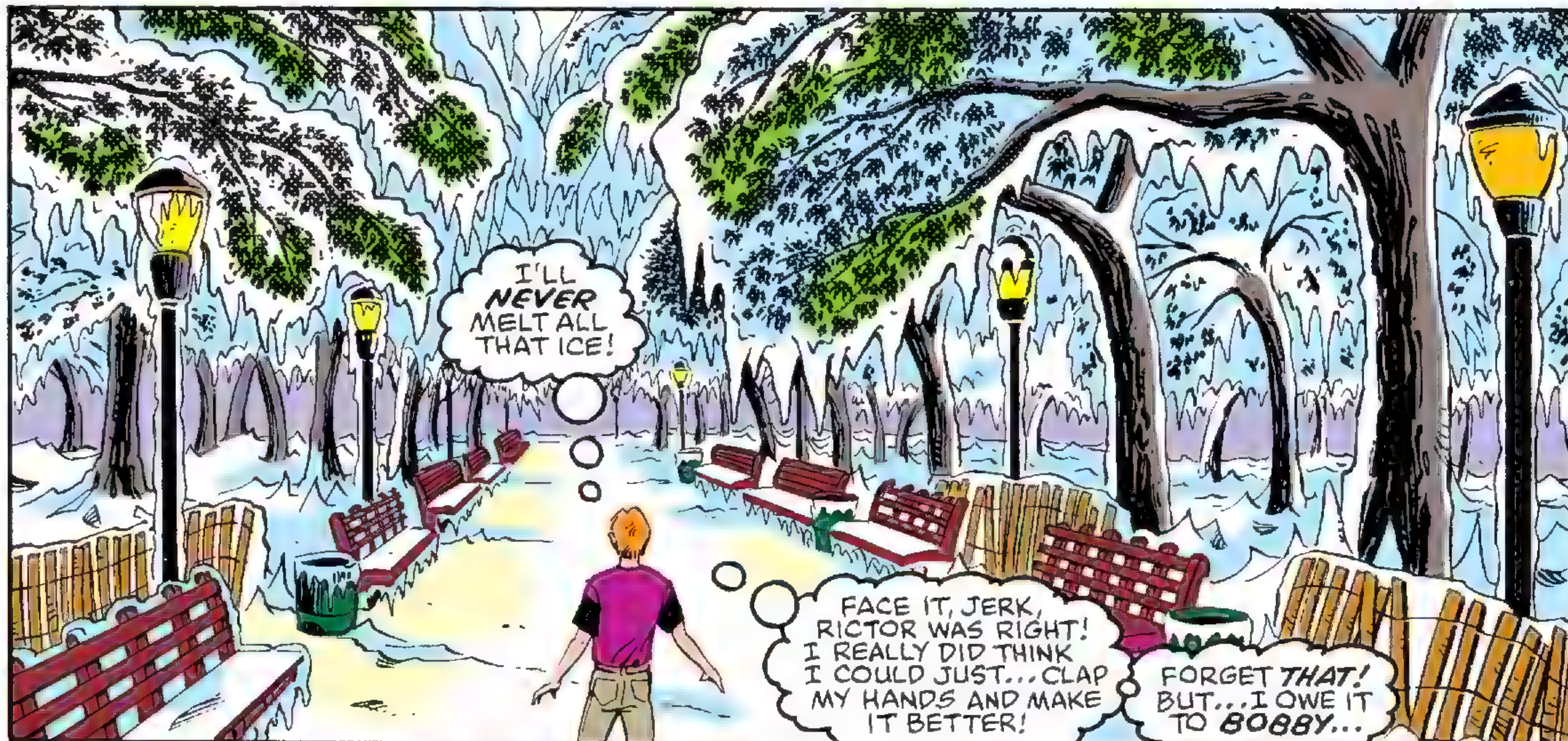


WHILE SEVERAL MILES AWAY IN THE PROMENADE IN NEW YORK'S CENTRAL PARK...



HOLY COW!

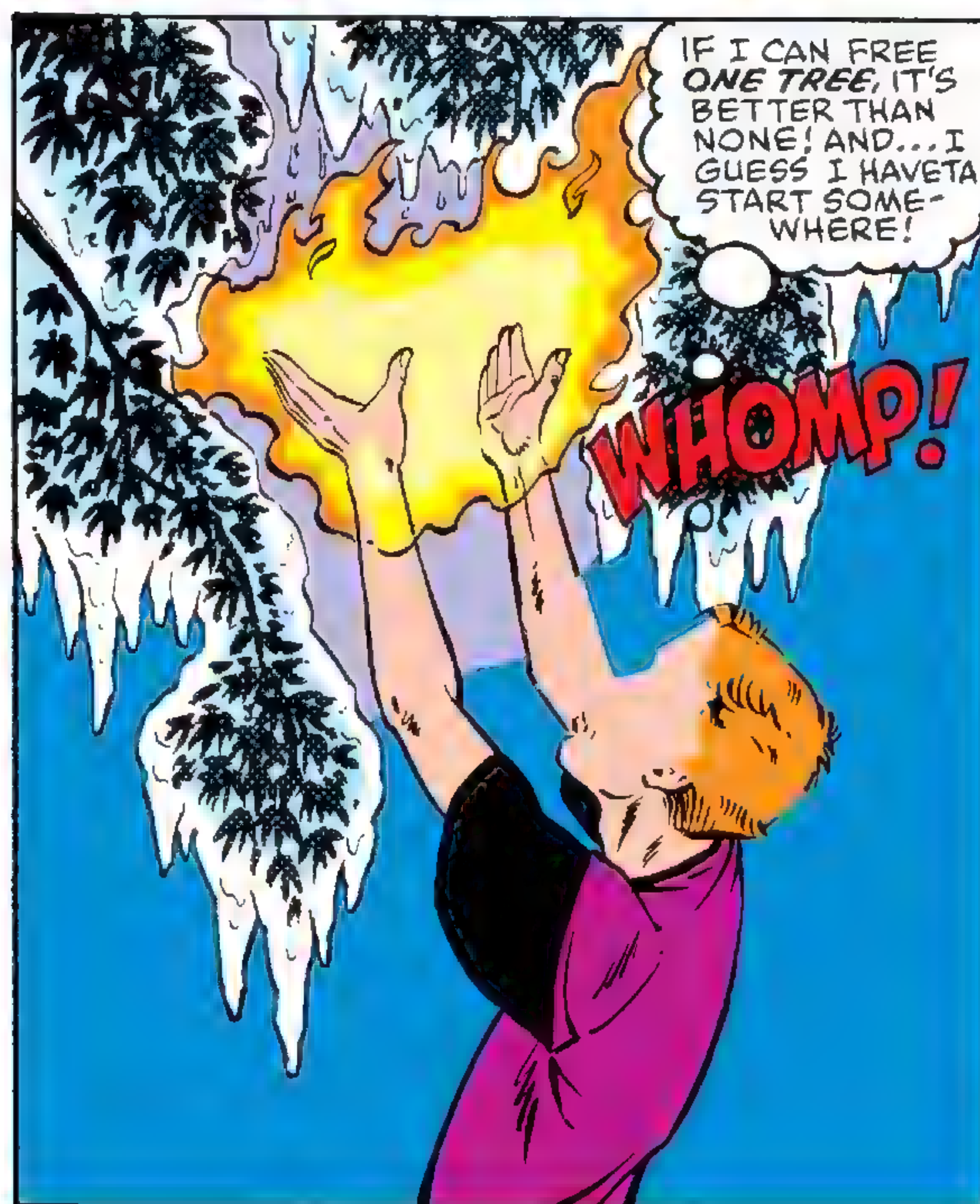
SEEING IT ON TV IS ONE THING! BUT SEEING IT UP CLOSE...



I'LL NEVER MELT ALL THAT ICE!

FACE IT, JERK, RICTOR WAS RIGHT! I REALLY DID THINK I COULD JUST... CLAP MY HANDS AND MAKE IT BETTER!

FORGET THAT! BUT... I OWE IT TO BOBBY...



IF I CAN FREE ONE TREE, IT'S BETTER THAN NONE! AND... I GUESS I HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE!

WHOMP!

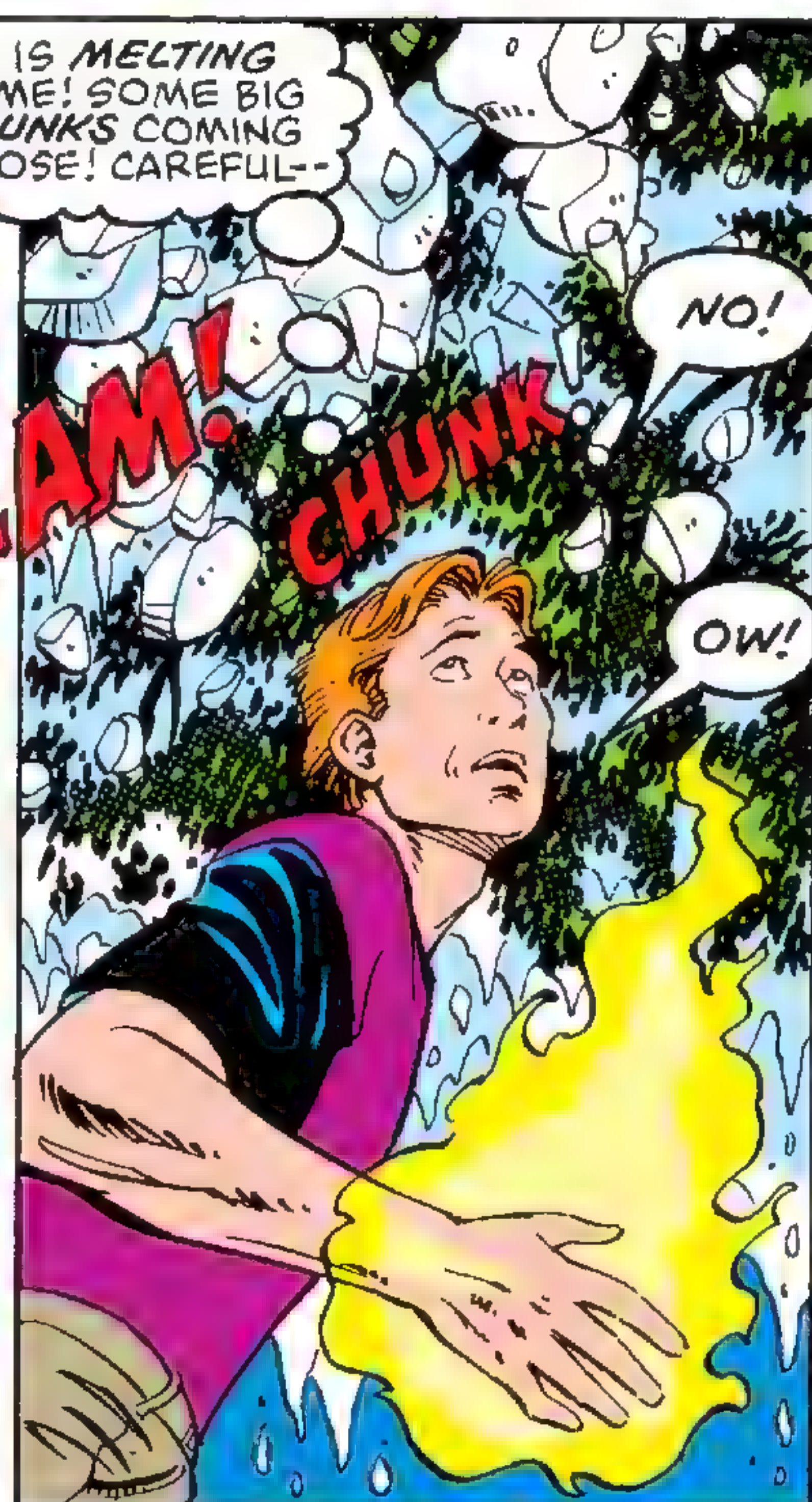


HEY! FRESH! IT'S MELTING FAST! SEEMS TO BE LOOSENING UP, EVEN AT THE TOP!

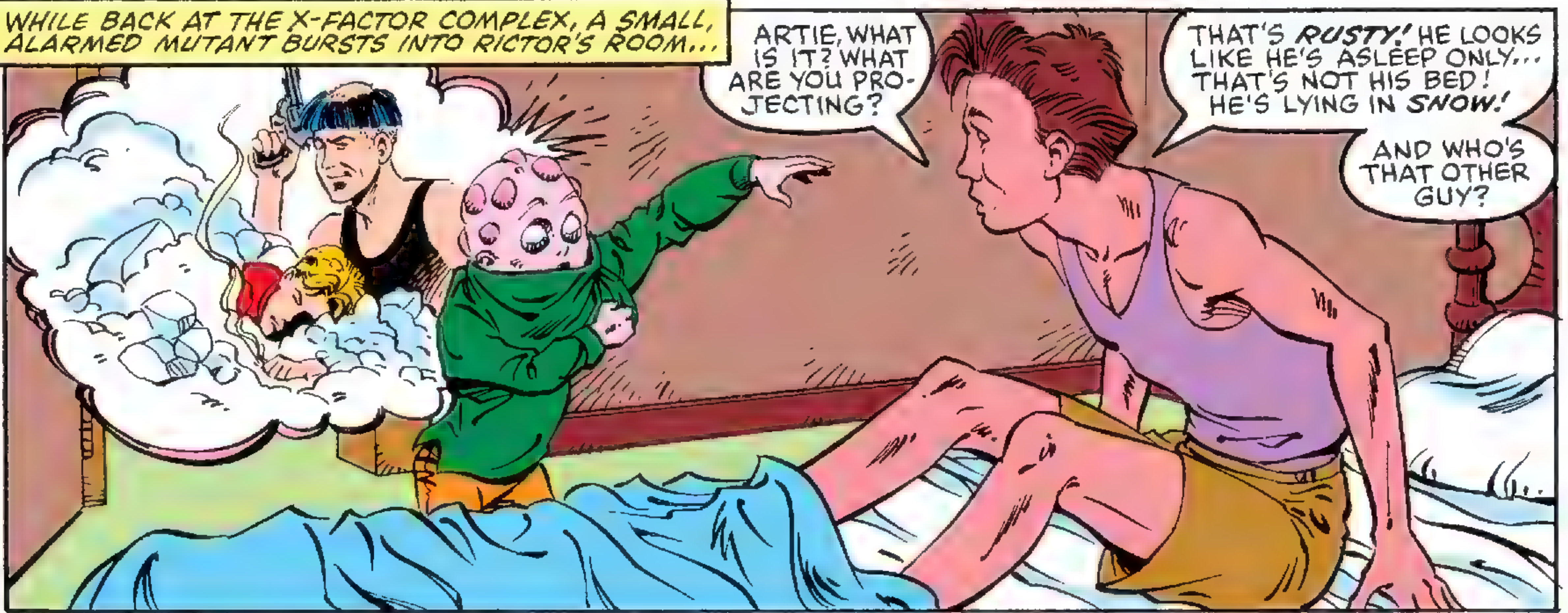
CRACK!

WHAT WAS THAT? THEY SAY GANGS ROAM CENTRAL PARK AT NIGHT!

I'M PYRO-KINETIC, SURE, BUT I'M NOT INVULNERABLE!



WHILE BACK AT THE X-FACTOR COMPLEX, A SMALL, ALARMED MUTANT BURSTS INTO RICTOR'S ROOM...



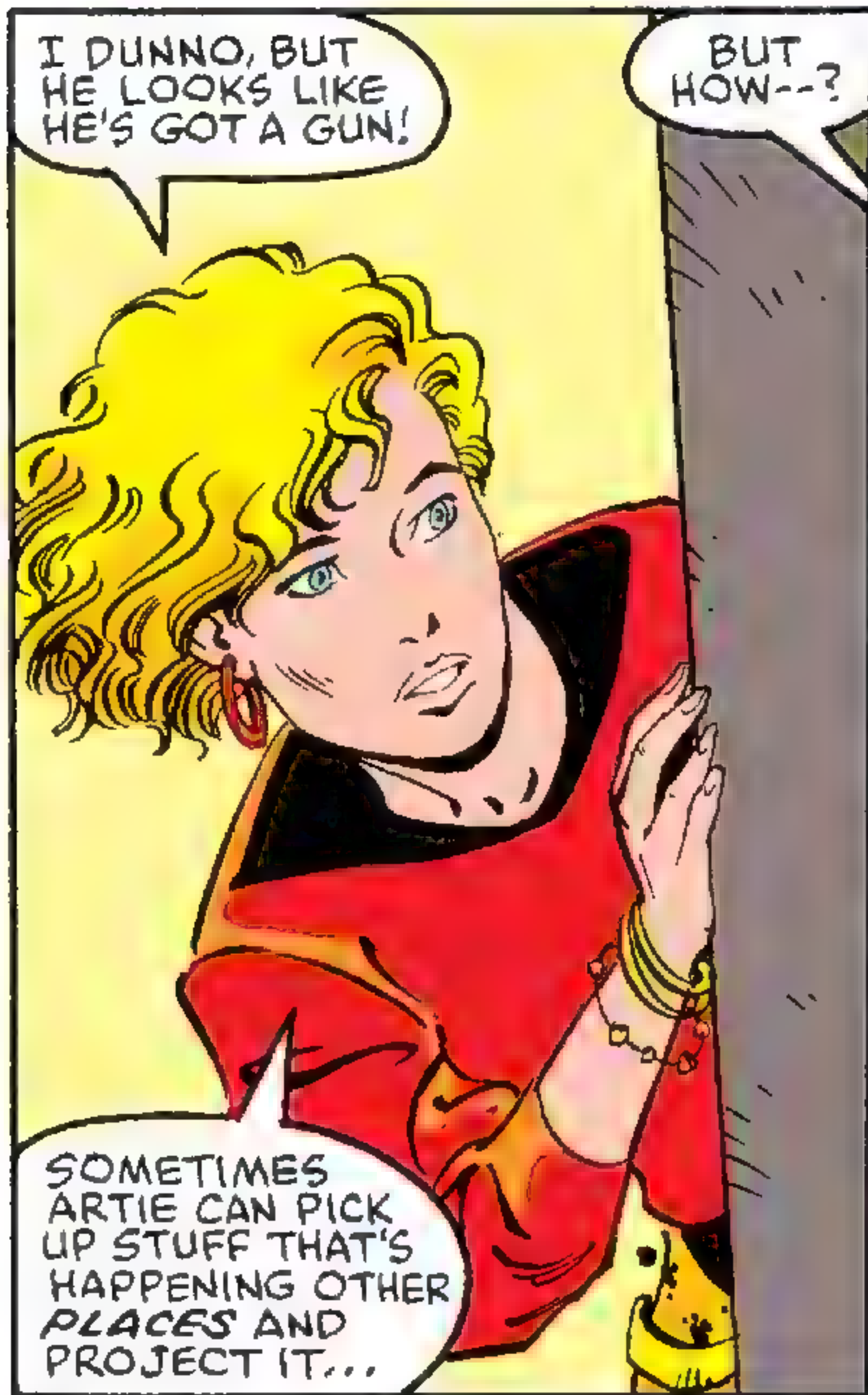
ARTIE, WHAT IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU PROJECTING?

THAT'S *RUSTY*! HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ASLEEP ONLY... THAT'S NOT HIS BED! HE'S LYING IN *SNOW*!

AND WHO'S THAT OTHER GUY?

I DUNNO, BUT HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT A GUN!

BUT HOW--?

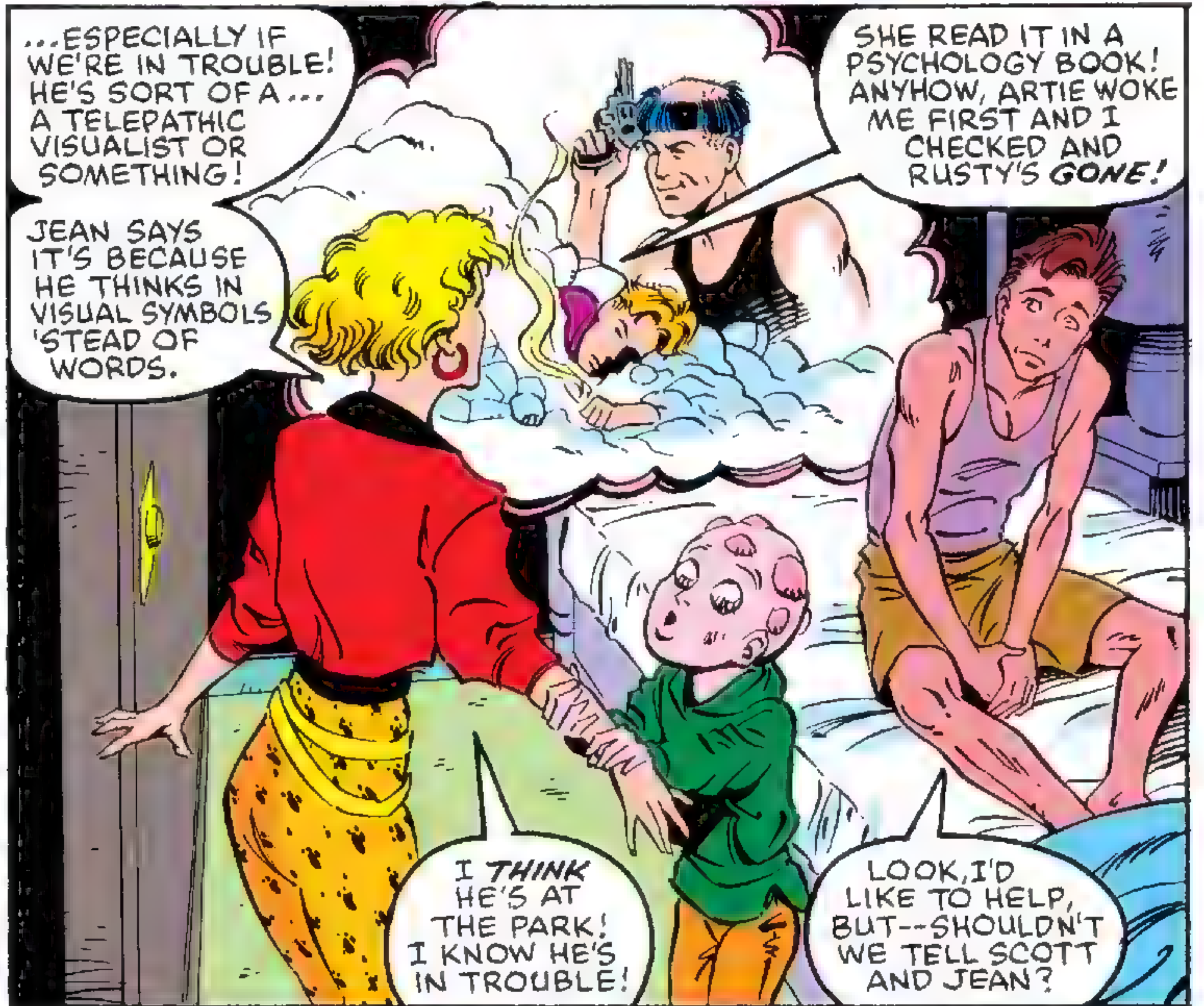


SOMETIMES ARTIE CAN PICK UP STUFF THAT'S HAPPENING OTHER PLACES AND PROJECT IT...

...ESPECIALLY IF WE'RE IN TROUBLE! HE'S SORT OF A... A TELEPATHIC VISUALIST OR SOMETHING!

JEAN SAYS IT'S BECAUSE HE THINKS IN VISUAL SYMBOLS 'STEAD OF WORDS.

SHE READ IT IN A PSYCHOLOGY BOOK! ANYHOW, ARTIE WOKE ME FIRST AND I CHECKED AND *RUSTY'S GONE*!

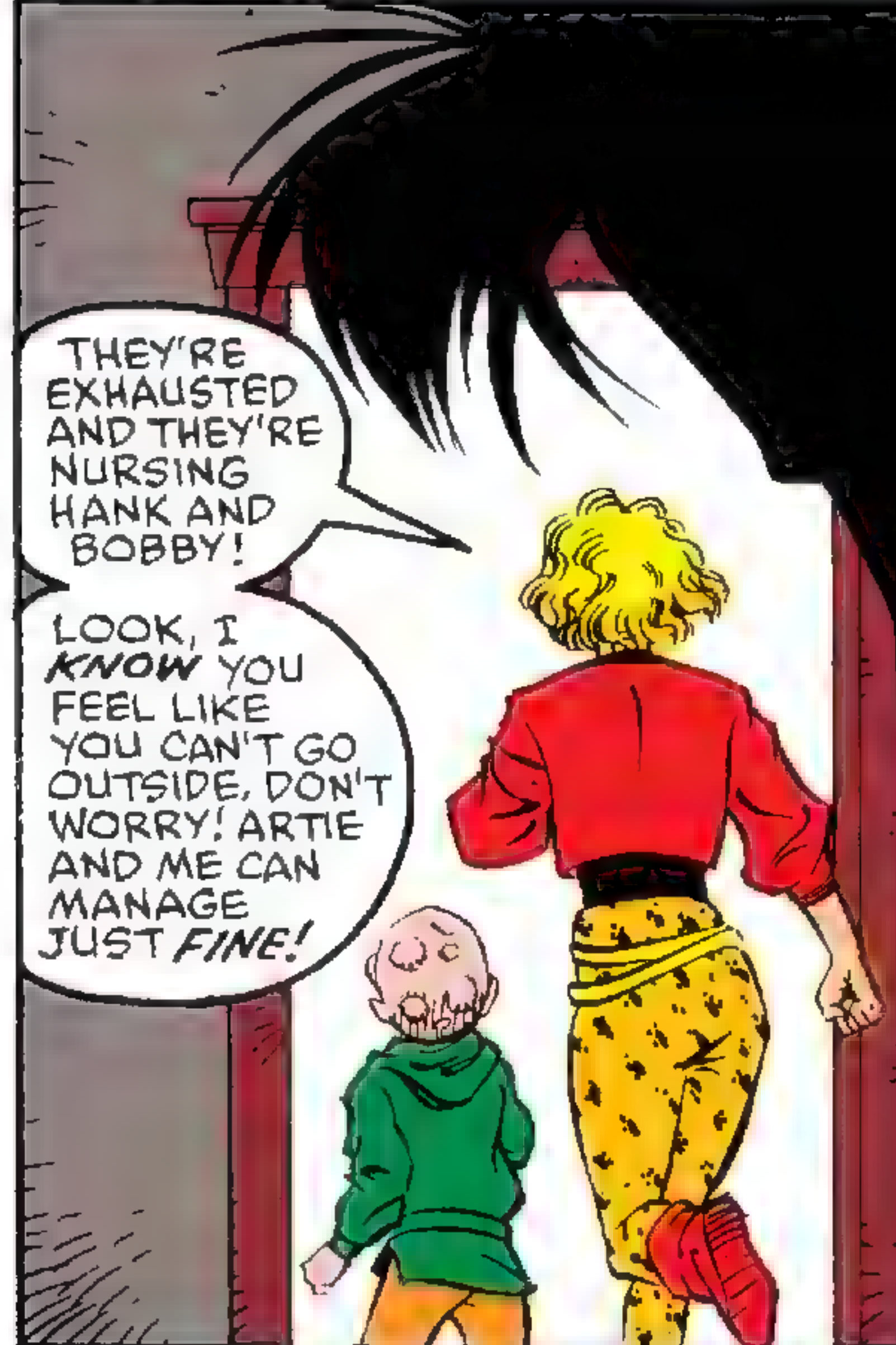


I *THINK* HE'S AT THE PARK! I KNOW HE'S IN TROUBLE!

LOOK, I'D LIKE TO HELP, BUT--SHOULDN'T WE TELL SCOTT AND JEAN?

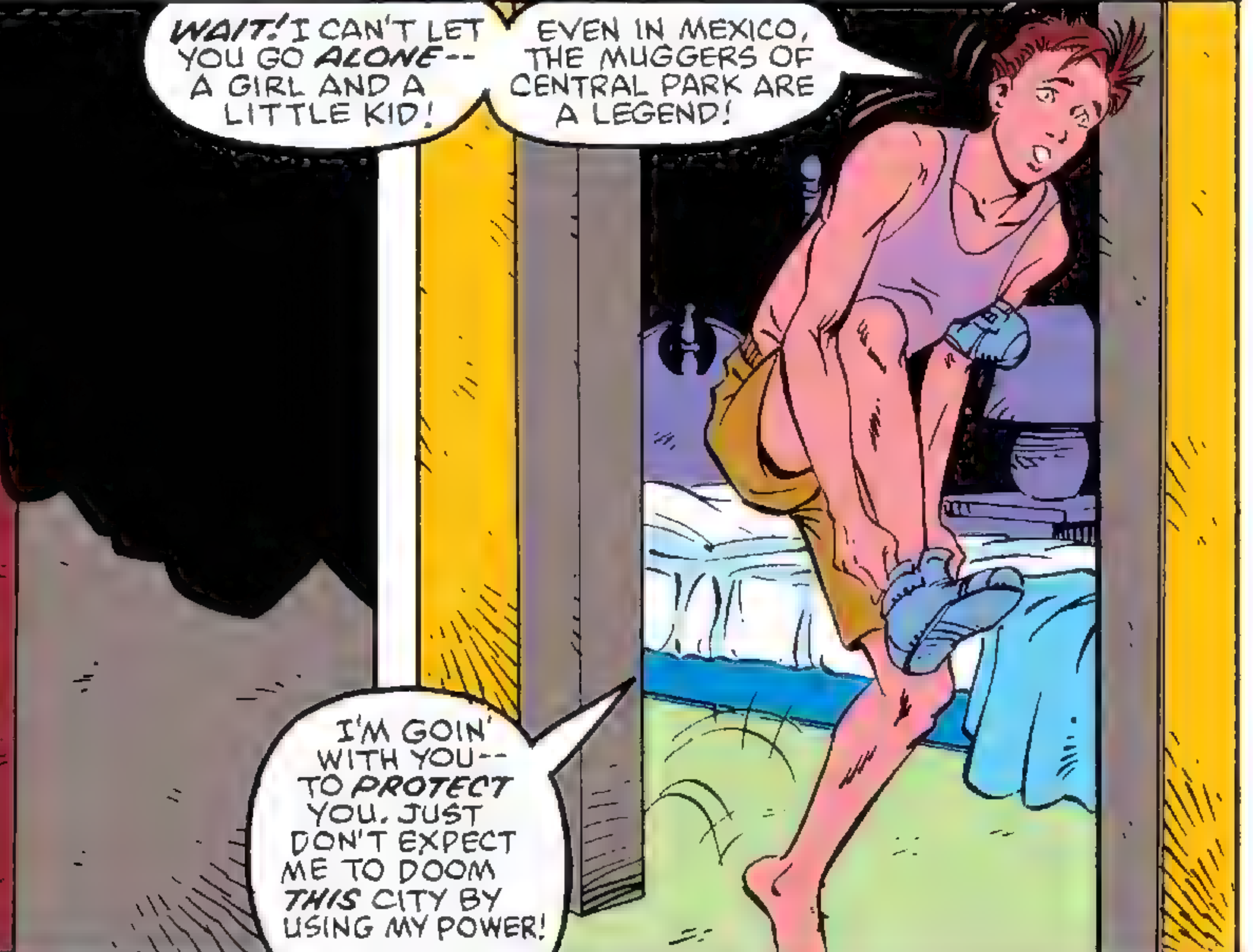
WAIT! I CAN'T LET YOU GO *ALONE*-- A GIRL AND A LITTLE KID!

EVEN IN MEXICO, THE MUGGERS OF CENTRAL PARK ARE A LEGEND!



THEY'RE EXHAUSTED AND THEY'RE NURSING HANK AND BOBBY!

LOOK, I *KNOW* YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE. DON'T WORRY! ARTIE AND ME CAN MANAGE JUST *FINE*!



I'M GOIN' WITH YOU-- TO *PROTECT* YOU. JUST DON'T EXPECT ME TO DOOM *THIS* CITY BY USING MY POWER!

MINUTES LATER, RICTOR, SKIDS AND ARTIE DASH FROM THEIR SECRET TUNNEL ONTO A DESERTED PLATFORM...

THERE'S THE TRAIN! RUN FOR IT!

YOU MEAN-- WE'RE TAKING THAT?

WELL, I SURE CAN'T FLY! CAN YOU?

UH...NO! BUT--UH...

YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A SUBWAY BEFORE? AND YOU'RE GONNA PROTECT US?

COME ON!

HEY, LOOK! ONE OF CAMERON HODGE'S STINKING X-FACTOR ADS!

HERE'S WHAT I THINK OF THAT ANTI-MUTANT JUNK!

RIP!

HEY, LOOK IN THE NEXT CAR! ANOTHER ONE!

THAT FIGURES!

THEY'RE ALLOVER THIS STUPID TRAIN!

RIP!

WE GOT FOURTEEN STOPS TO GO!

YEAH! LET'S MAKE 'EM COUNT!

TEN CARS LATER...

THE LAST ONES! SO MUCH FOR MUTANT HUNTERS AND MUTANT HATERS!

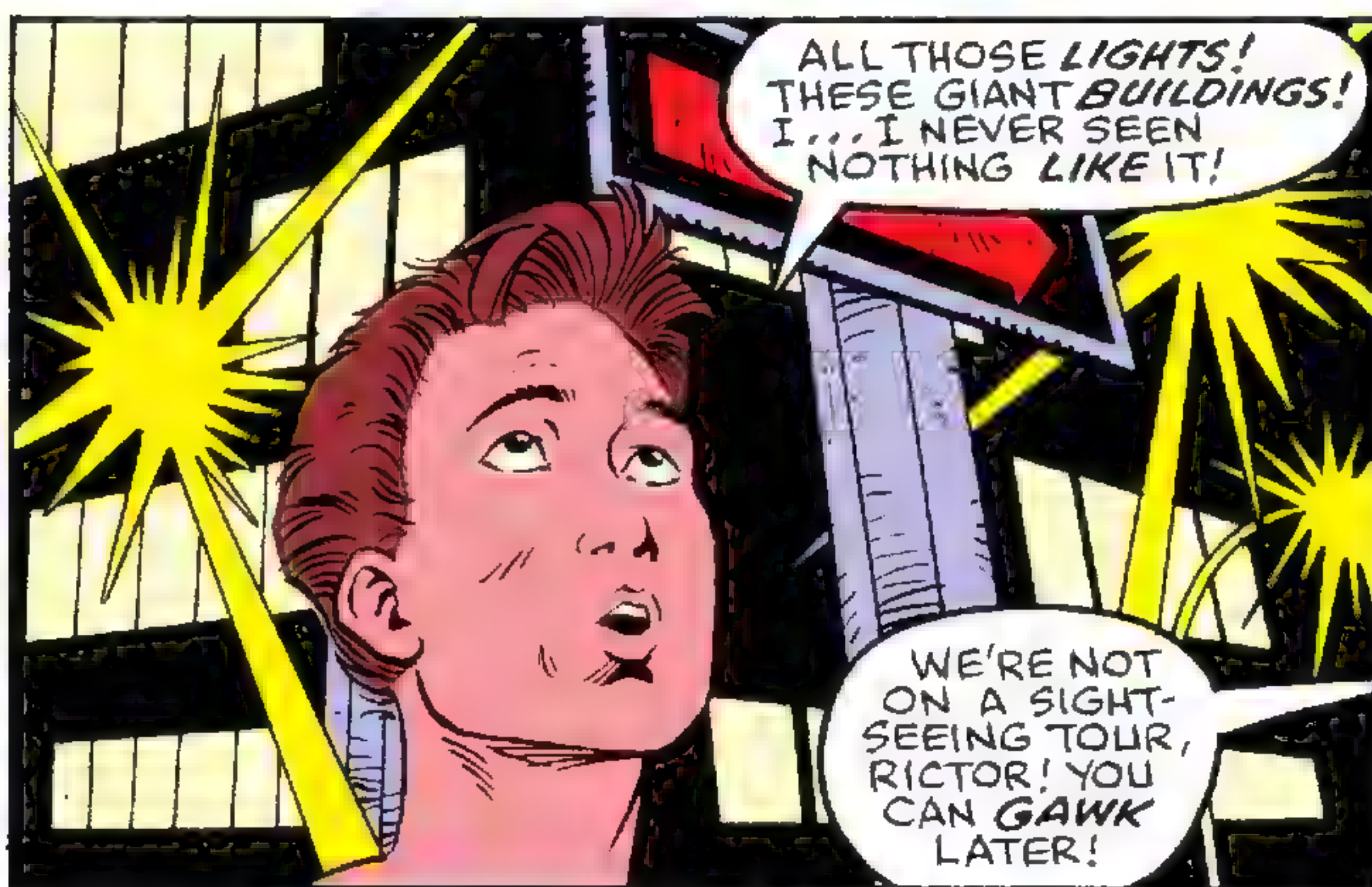
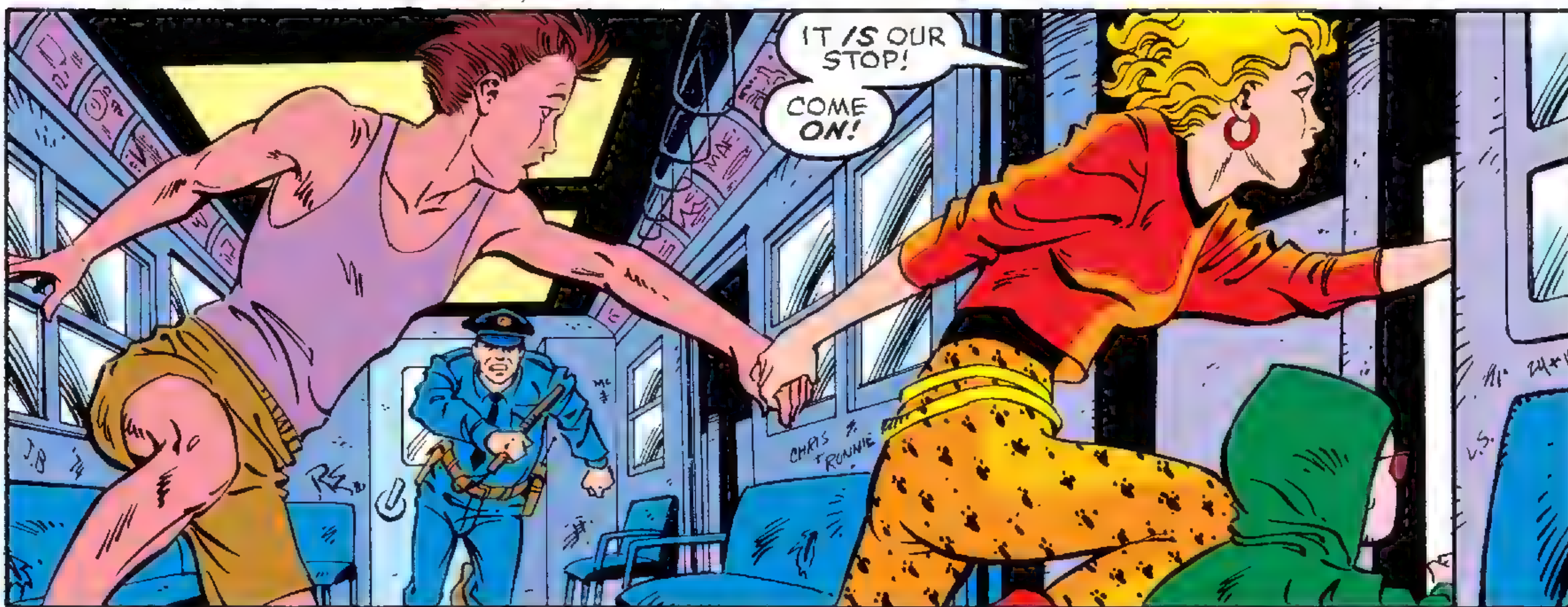
YEAH! KNOW 'EM BY THEIR DEEDS!

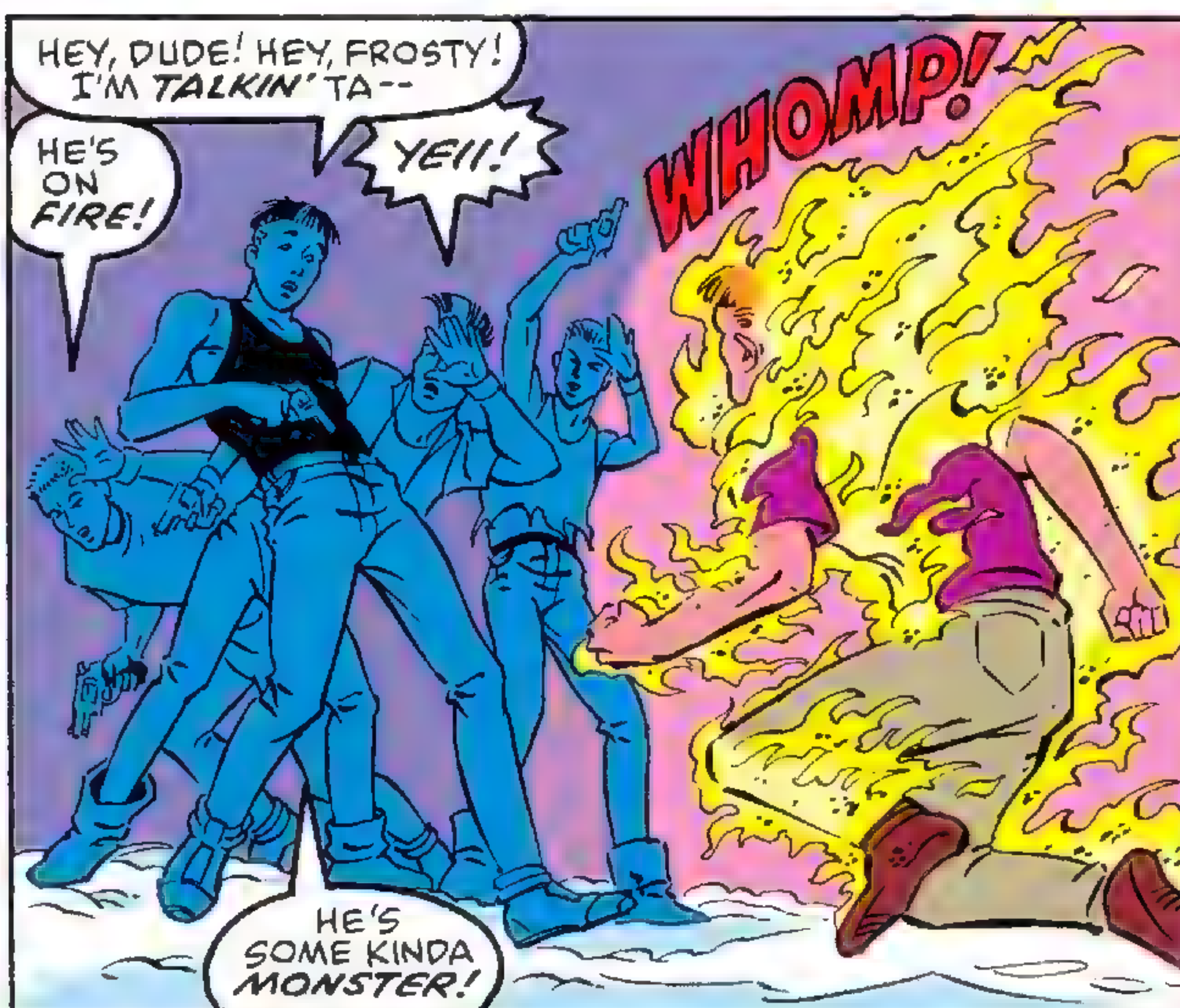
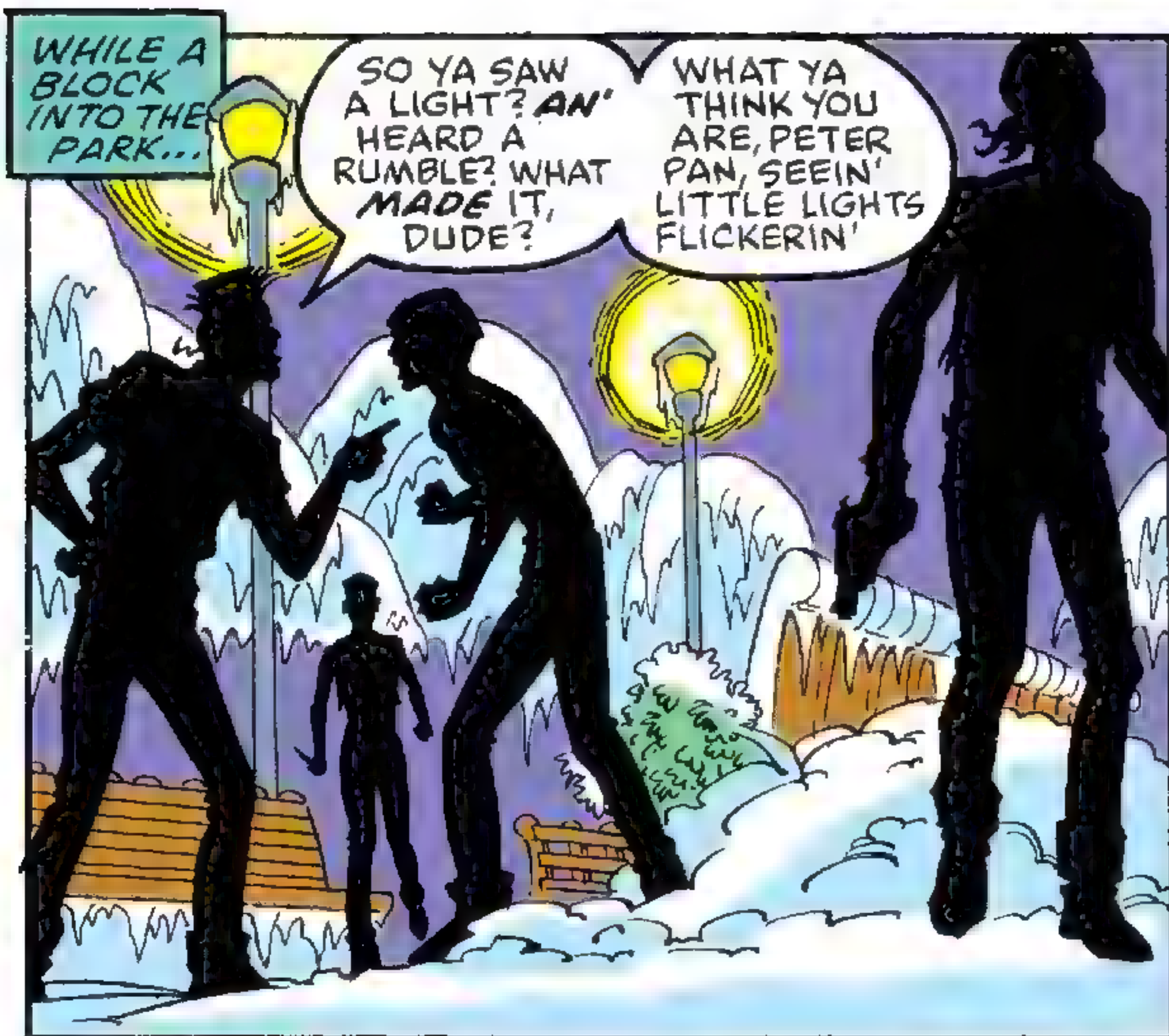
GOOD GRIEF! ARTIE, WHAT IS IT? OUR STOP COMING UP?

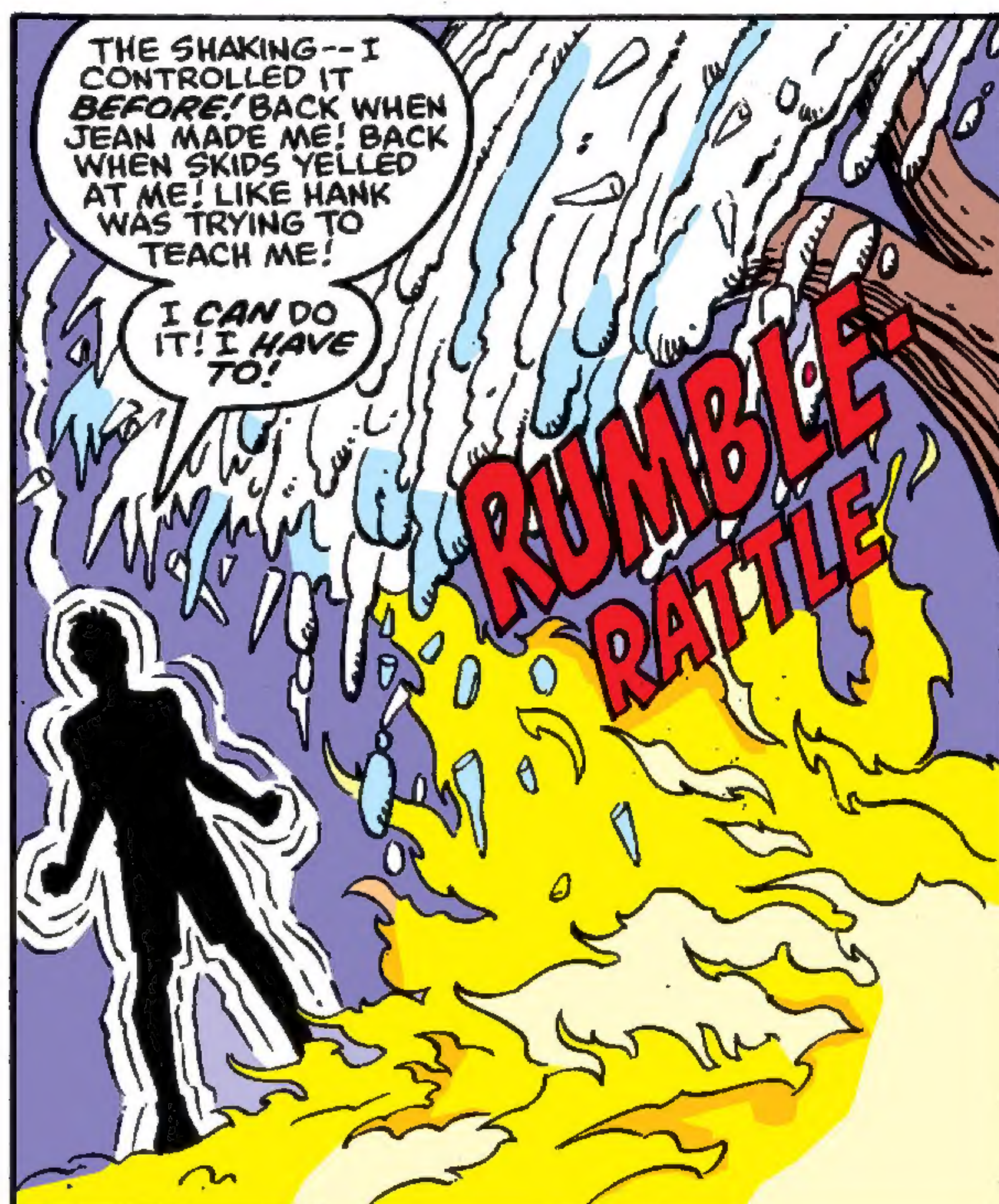
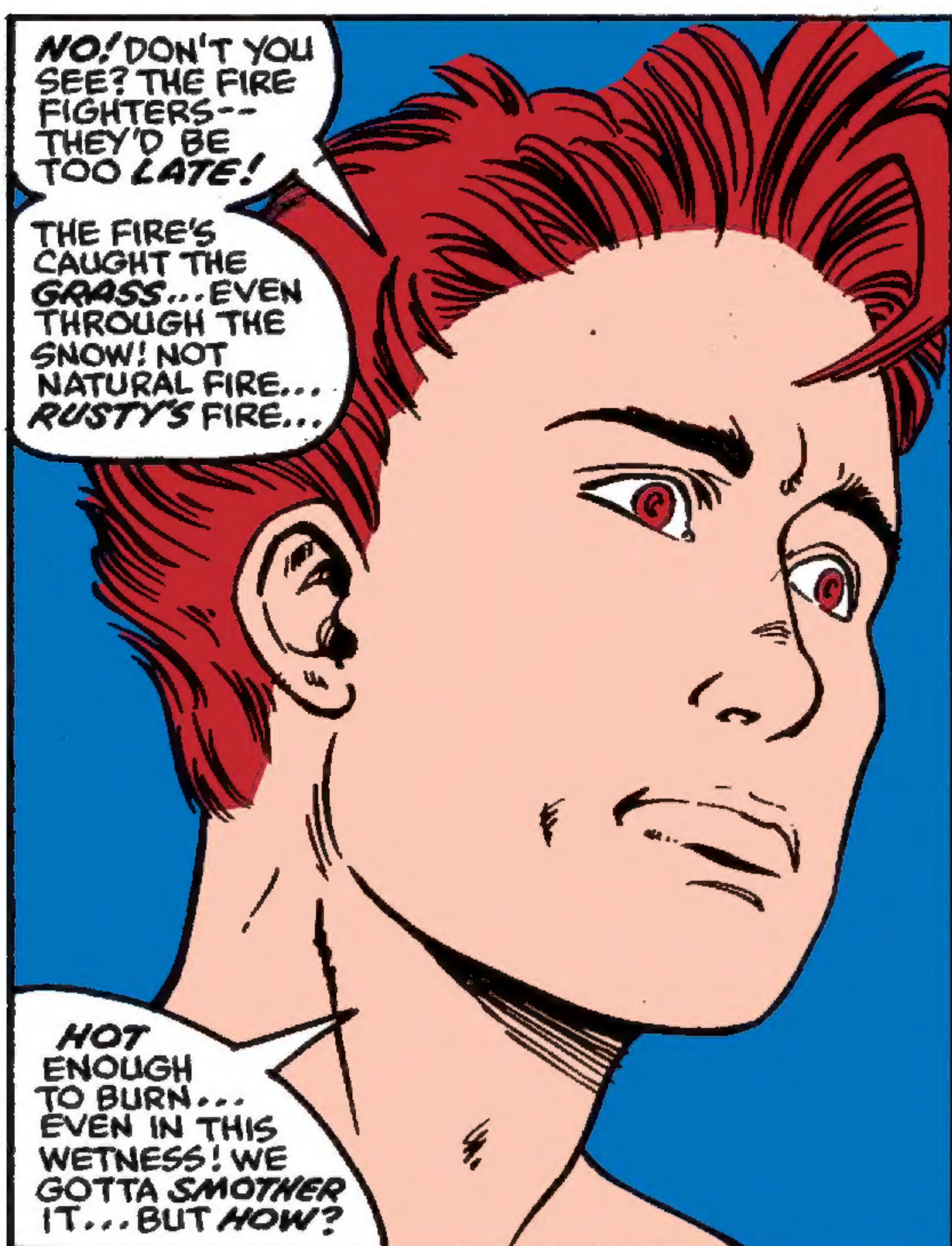
DROP THAT, YOU PERPS!

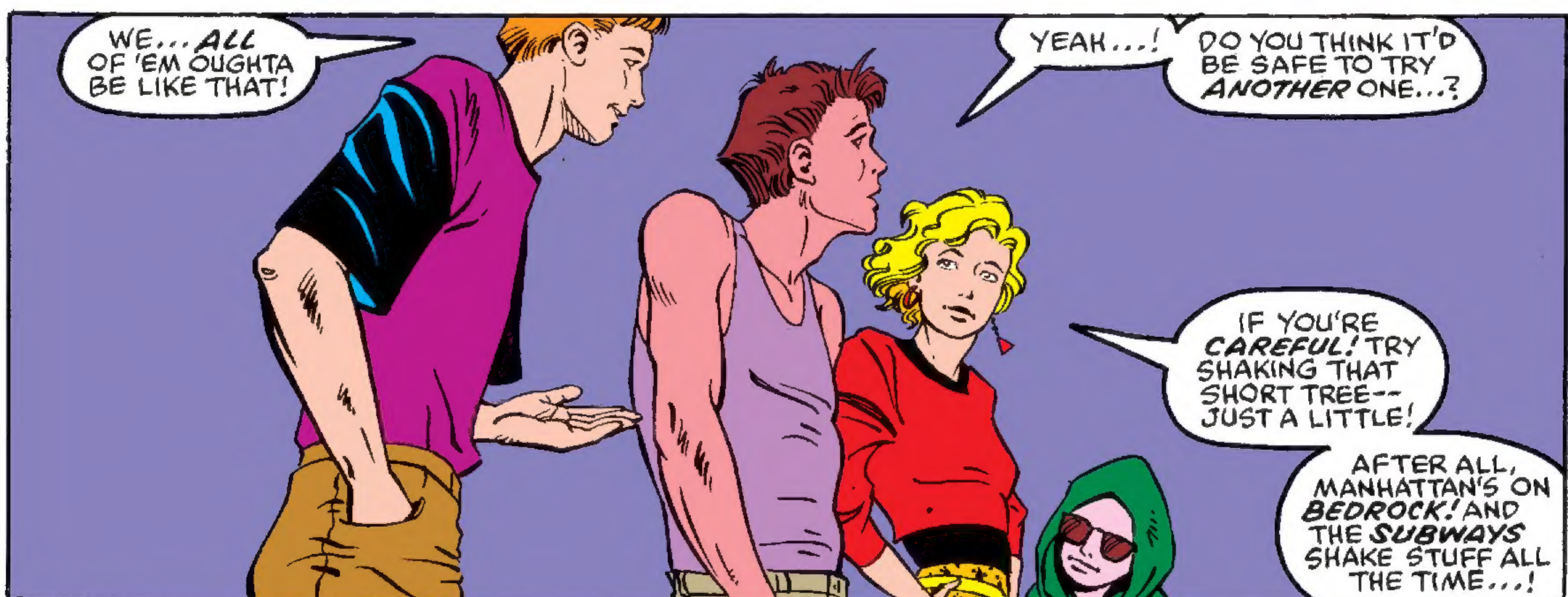
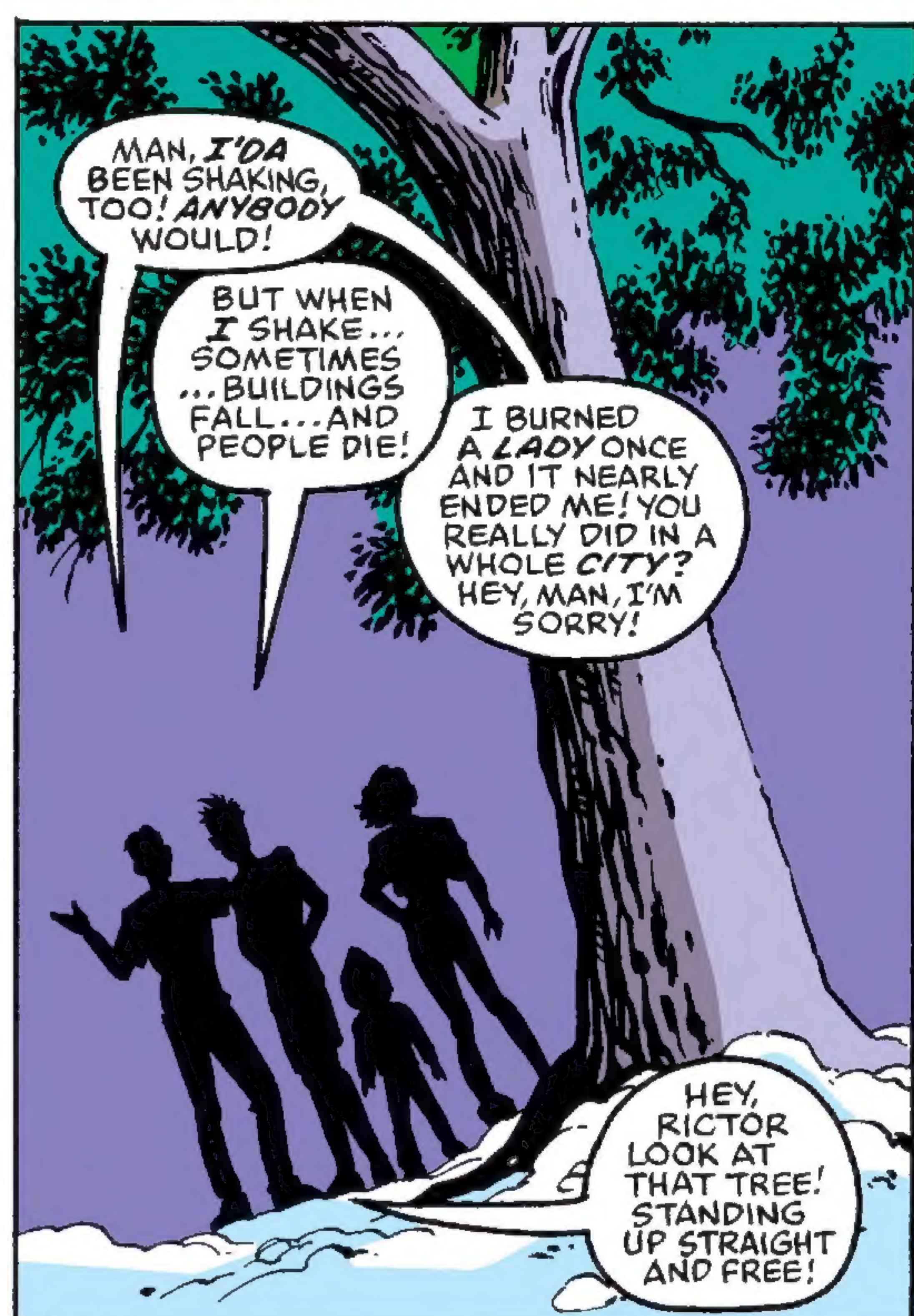
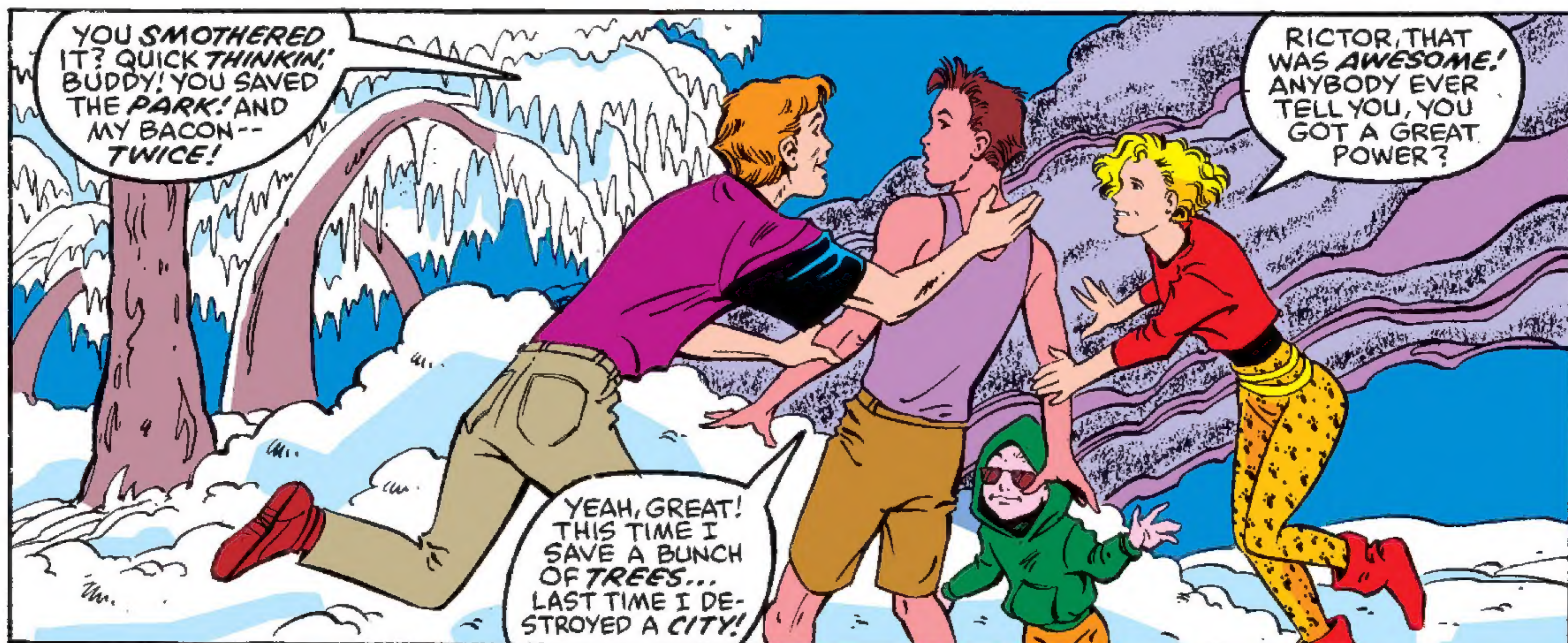
YOU'RE DESTROYING CITY PROPERTY! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

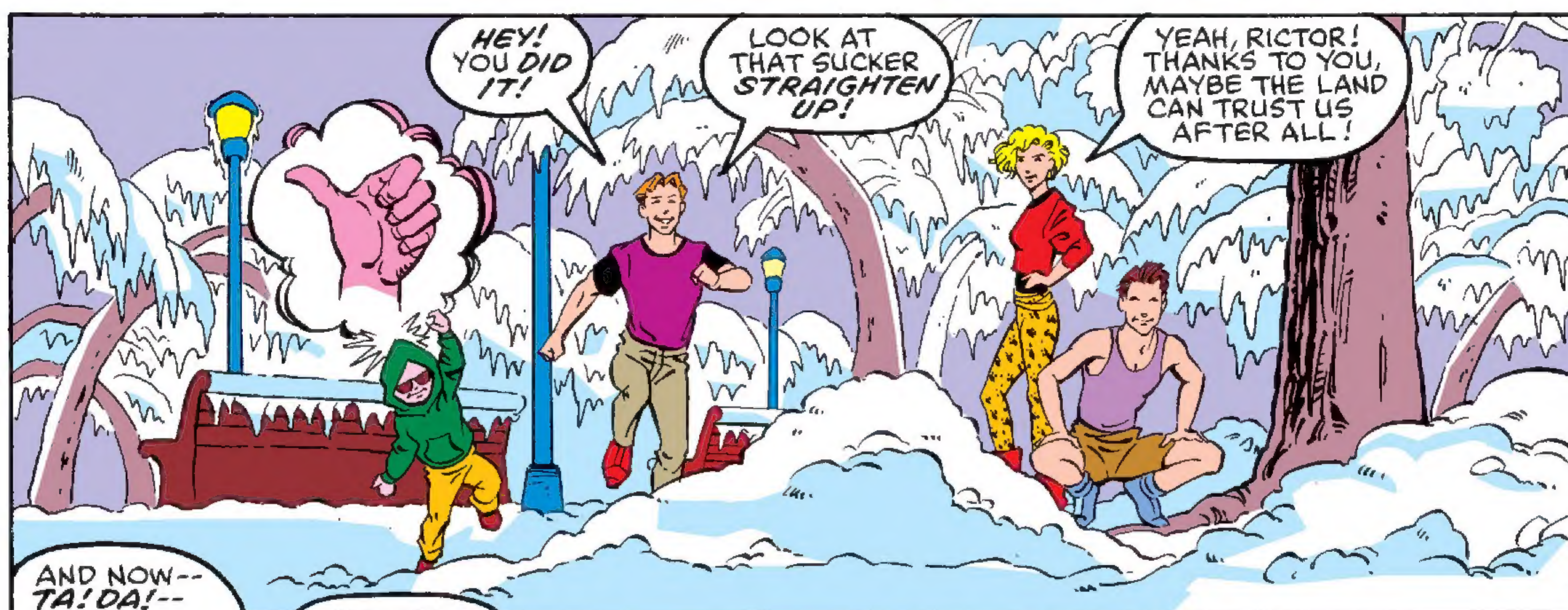
OMIGOSH!

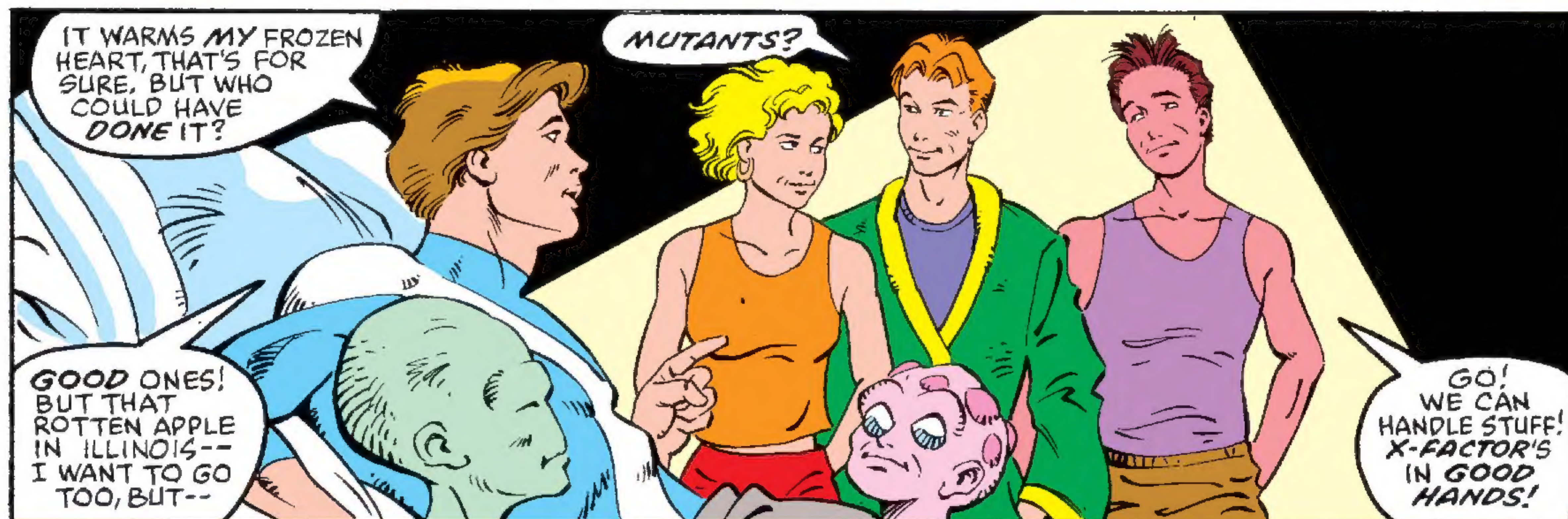
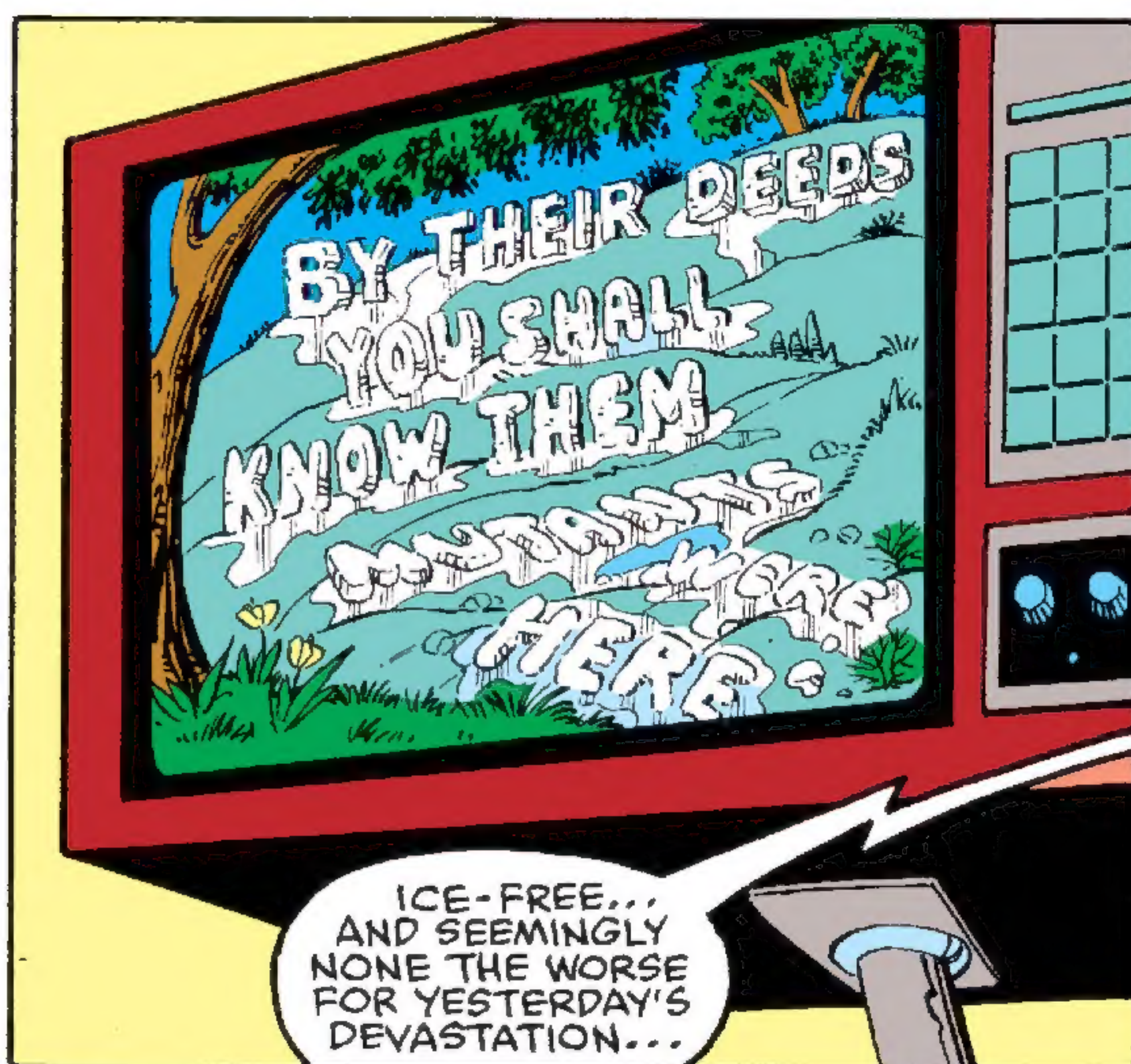
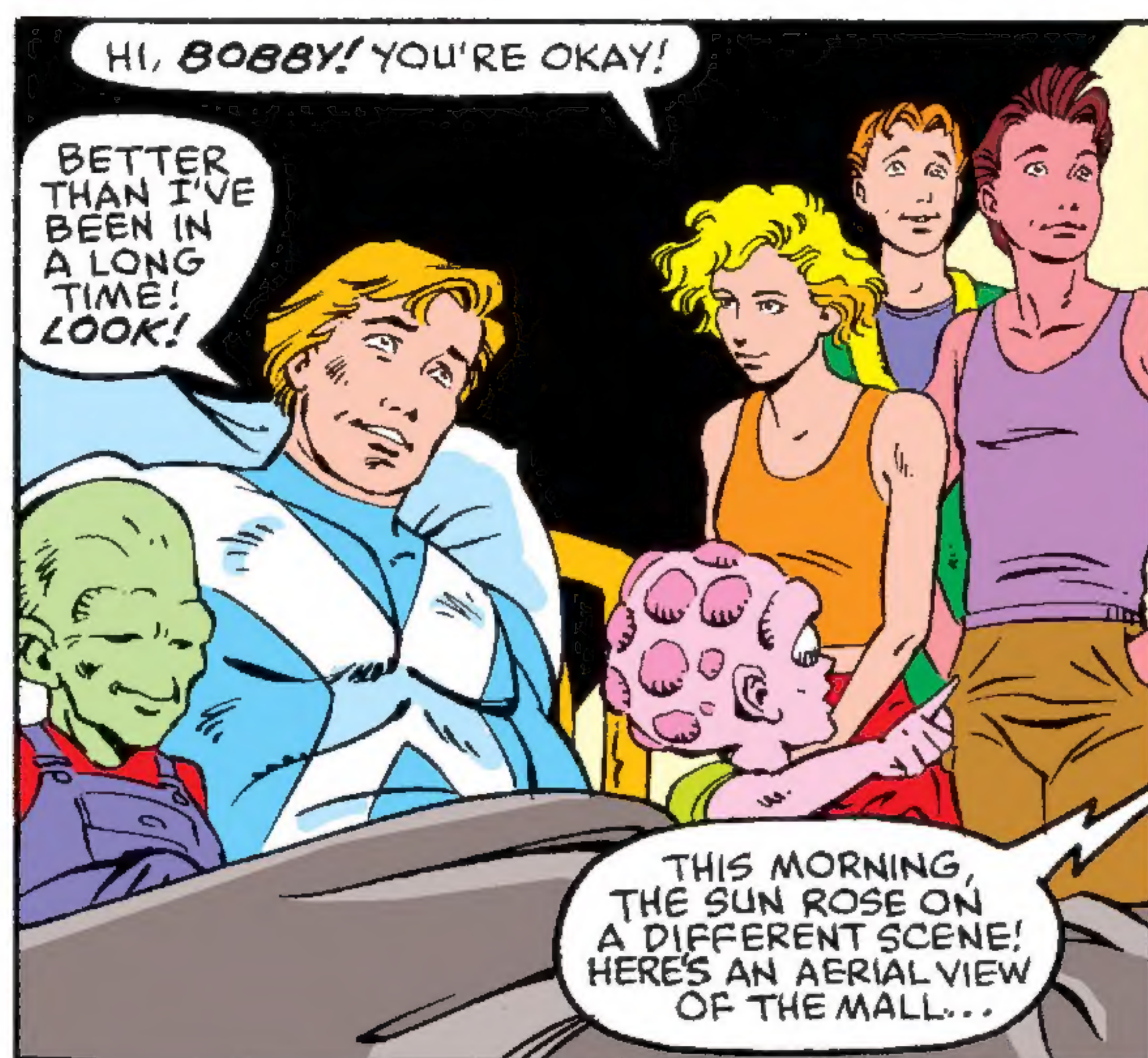
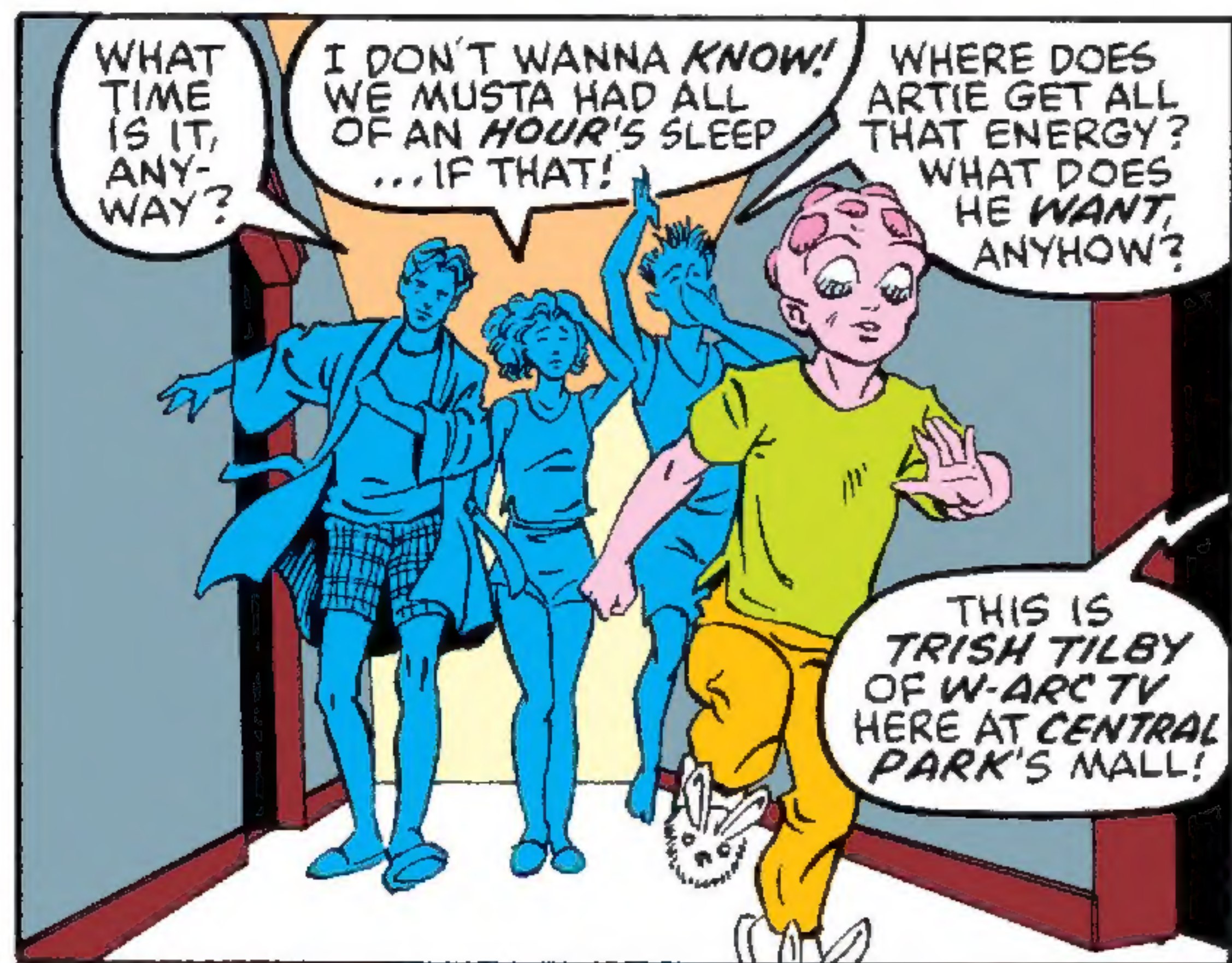












THE ANGEL LOST HIS WINGS! HE LOST HIS LIFE! BUT HE LEFT X-FACTOR WELL PROVIDED FOR-- DIDN'T HE?

NEXT ISSUE: CAMERON HODGE SHOWS HIS HAND! ANGEL'S WILL IS READ! AND THE MASTER PLAN IS REVEALED!